

The races for supervisor are on!
Meet the District 2, 4, 6, 8 candidates
who completed our questionnaire.
pages 18 - 23

Our first couple
City Hall aide and psych
student 'tie the knot.'
page 28



The Band plays on
Playwright Mart Crowley
separates 'Men from the Boys.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 43 • 24 October 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

District 8 race pivotal for Board of Supervisors

by Matthew S. Bajko



Politics and people
converge at the
Castro Street
Fair.

In the District 8 supervisor race, a political tug-of-war is shaping up once again between moderates and progressives. The fight is not only over who will represent the district in City Hall, but also how a number of quality of life issues will fare at the ballot box.

Which political camp comes out victorious on November 5 will not only shape life in the Castro, Noe Valley, and Glen Park neighborhoods, but could very well portend where the political tides are turning as the city prepares to elect a new mayor next year.

Three years ago, moderates barely prevailed over progressives to send Supervisor Mark Leno back to the board for another term. Now, Leno is likely headed to the state Assembly and the seat is open. This year, the progressive vote could split between openly gay BART board member Tom Radulovich and out lesbian Eileen Hansen, who lost to Leno by less than 800 votes in 2000, giving moderates a chance to send openly gay Bevan Dufty, who served as Mayor Willie Brown's director of neighborhood services, back to City Hall, this time as a legislator rather than an aide.

Watching the race closely, and how the district votes for several propositions on next month's ballot, are Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Gavin Newsom. Both have an eye toward the mayor's seat and are looking to see which of their dueling initiatives to solve the city's homeless issues will prevail.

Ammiano could gain a strong ally on the board if either Hansen, whom he has endorsed, or Radulovich, who touts the fact he supported Ammiano's 1999 mayoral bid, is elected. Both candidates have come out against Newsom's Proposition N, the Care Not Cash initiative, and Hansen is supportive of Ammiano's countermeasure Proposition O, Exits from Homelessness.

If voters elect Dufty, who not only supports Care Not Cash but also Proposition R,

page 16 ►

Bagdad Cafe police shooting victim was gay

by Ed Walsh

Jihad Abdul-Alim Akbar was killed by police outside the Bagdad Cafe, but according to his close friend, his real killer was the culture of drugs in the gay community.

"I feel in some ways our community killed him," said Tom Strong, who had known Akbar for six years.

Police shot and killed Akbar outside the popular Castro District restaurant on October 8 at about 10:30 p.m. Police said they were forced to shoot Akbar after he lunged at them with two large butcher knives he allegedly took from the restaurant.

According to witnesses, Akbar was muttering the words "fags," "homosexuals," "white power," and "nigger" before the shooting.

Akbar, 28, was African American and according to Strong, was openly gay and at times struggled with feelings of being conflicted as a Muslim gay man.

Strong is convinced that Akbar's long-term speed use precipitated the incident by putting Akbar in a psychotic state.

Strong speculated that his friend might also have intended to commit suicide by encouraging the police to shoot him. But Strong is critical of how officers handled the incident.

"It was obviously excessive force," he said, suggesting that police should have resorted to other measures to bring Akbar under control rather than shooting him.

Akbar is survived by his longtime friend and partner of nearly seven years, Tim Silard. Like others close to Akbar, Silard, who

is an assistant district attorney for San Francisco, questioned whether police could have found a way to subdue Akbar other than shooting him.

"Right now, we're pretty angry," he said, adding that the family has hired well-known Oakland attorney John Burris and is consid-

page 13 ►

Bay Area Reporter endorsements

STATE OFFICERS

Governor
Gray Davis
Lt. Governor
Cruz Bustamante
Secretary of State
Kevin Shelley
Attorney General
Bill Lockyer
Controller
Steve Westly
Treasurer
Phil Angelides
Insurance Commissioner
John Garamendi
Superintendent of
Public Instruction
Jack O Connell
1st District Board
of Equalization
Carole Migden

JUDICIAL

YES on all three state
Supreme Court Justices
YES on all Court of Appeal
Justices in Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

STATE SENATE

District 8 Jackie Speier

STATE ASSEMBLY

District 12 No endorsement
District 13 Mark Leno
District 6 Joe Nation
District 14 Loni Hancock
District 15 Donna Gerber
District 16 Wilma Chan
District 27
(Santa Cruz) John Laird

CONGRESS

District 8 Nancy Pelosi
District 1 Mike Thompson
District 6 Lynn Woolsey
District 7 George Miller
District 9 Barbara Lee
District 10 Ellen Tauscher
District 12 Tom Lantos
District 13 Pete Stark
District 14 Anna Eshoo
District 15 Mike Honda
District 16 Zoe Lofgren

SF SUPERVISOR

District 2 Gavin Newsom
District 4 Fiona Ma
District 6 Chris Daly
District 8 Tom Radulovich
District 10 Sophie Maxwell

SF BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dan Kelly, Eddie Chin

COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Lawrence Wong, Anita Greer,
Johnnie L. Carter Jr.

JUDGES — SF SUPERIOR COURT

Court Office 10
Gail Dekreon

SF OFFICIALS Assessor/Recorder Doris Ward

BART BOARD District 8 James Fang

BERKELEY MAYOR Tom Bates

BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL District 7 Kriss Worthington

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Vote YES on A, B, C, E, G, H,
I, J, N, R, S, BB
Vote NO on D, F, K, L, M, O, P, Q

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Vote YES on 46, 47, 48
Vote NO on 49, 50, 51, 52
Propositions explained on pg. 6.



Eddie Gwen Araujo

TG teen murdered in Newark

by Joe Dignan

On the night that Eddie "Gwen" Araujo was murdered at a party in Newark, California, on Thursday, October 3, s/he was wearing a denim mini-skirt s/he had borrowed from Julia Valenzuela, who calls herself "his best friend."

Valenzuela said that Araujo, 17, had started dressing like a girl in the summer between their eighth and ninth grade years. "The punk, the gothic, we went through everything. First he called himself 'Angie,' then he fell in love with Gwen Stefani," Valenzuela said, referring to the lead singer of the band No Doubt.


"He would always say to me, 'It's not Eddie, it's Gwen.' He'd get black knee-high stockings, cut the bottoms, and wear them on his arms. He always had at least two rings on each hand and he would wear these tight leather pants. He was a beautiful boy and a beautiful girl."

"He had pink streaks in his hair, because Gwen Stefani dyed hers

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Halloween abounds with queer events

by Matthew S. Bajko

From costume parties and circuit events to a political-themed rally and a "haunted" Bay cruise, the Halloween holiday kicks into full spooky swing this weekend, culminating next Thursday night with another year of unofficial mayhem in the Castro.

The list of queer events surrounding the calendar's most gay-friendly holiday begins Friday night with "The Exploitation Runway," sponsored by the Gay Shame group and set to take place at 5:30 p.m. October 25 in the heart of the Marina District at the intersection of Webster and Chestnut streets.

The event is a rally opposing Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Care Not Cash initiative, Proposition N, on the November ballot. According to the Gay Shamers, Proposition N stands for nightmare, so they are hosting a pre-Halloween festival of resistance to oppose the measure, which would change how the city distributes cash grants to the homeless.

After zapping Marina residents, those looking to escape the horrors of this year's election can venture up to Guerneville for the annual "Russian River Massacre," the Halloween extravaganza thrown by those costumed mistresses of the night, Putanesca,

Vinsantos, and Peaches Christ.

The weekend consists of five main events including an outdoor Midnight Mass screening of the Halloween family classic: *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre!* Friday.

Information on tickets, accommodations, and the events can be found at www.peacheschrist.com.

For those staying in the city this weekend, Saturday, October 26 brings the ghoulish version of Pink Saturday to the Castro, when residents too spooked by all the straight revelers on Halloween night feel safe to venture out of their houses and into the streets around the intersection of 18th and Castro. This year's annual gathering will begin with the "March of Light," a parade featuring marchers in lighted costumes that will begin at Dolores Park and snake its way to the Castro. The parade kicks off at 7 p.m. and is expected to flood the Castro with participants at around 10 p.m.

Following the parade is the return of HellBall, a Halloween-themed circuit party benefiting two local AIDS charities, Maitri and Continuum. The party goes from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. at the Gift Center Pavilion at 888 Brannan Street. Tickets cost \$55 or \$70 for a VIP pass and can be bought in the Castro at Body Body Wear or Body by Citizen.

HellBall's organizers have teamed up with other party pro-

motors who are also throwing parties this weekend, including the Sunday morning after-party RISING Ascend from Hell by ptyrone presents. An all-weekend pass to the six various parties costs \$125 and a list of all the events can be found at www.hell-ball.org.

The transgender community is throwing its own Halloween on the Bay cruise party Saturday night. Hosted by TransGender San Francisco, the three-hour costume party excursion will feature hors d'oeuvres and a no host bar.

Revelers will set sail on a Blue and Gold Fleet ship which will leave Pier 41, adjacent to Pier 39, at 7:30 p.m. and return at 10:30 p.m. Tickets for the floating party cost \$35 per person and can be bought online at www.tgsf.org/halloween.

Over in the East Bay, the Light-house Community Center of Hayward is throwing the "MasQUEERade Ball" on Saturday night from 7:30 to 11 p.m. in the Hayward City Hall Rotunda. The event is a fundraiser for the LGBT center and will feature dancing, food, no host bar, door prizes, and a costume contest.

Tickets for the ball cost \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door and can be bought online at www.east-bayvoice.org/tickets or by calling (510) 881-8167. Hayward's City Hall is located at 777 B Street, next to the Hayward BART station. ▼

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Please Vote November 5th 2002

ENDORSEMENTS

Take This Guide To The Polls



Debra Walker, Pres.



Robert Haaland, VP



Enrique Asis, VP

CHOOSE
OR LOSEAn Urgent Message from Officers
of the Harvey Milk Club

The liveability and affordability of San Francisco is at stake in November's election. Downtown interests, big landlords, and the Republican party are pushing a conservative agenda and conservative candidates. **Don't be fooled by fake democratic organizations, big money campaigns and last minute hit pieces.**

Big Developers and Landlord groups are working hard to defeat Prop. B and A and to end rent control by passing Prop. R. Prop N is an attempt to blame policy failures on poor and

homeless people and to force the most vulnerable people out of San Francisco. Prop O offers real solutions to help homeless people. H and L are about basic fairness.

An Independent Board of Supervisors is at stake. If just one candidate lost to a candidate friendly to the Mayor, Brown would again have a veto-proof majority.

We urge you to vote for Sara Lipson and Whitney Leigh for more accountability to our school board and long needed reform.

We are also proud to be supporting a lesbian candidate for judge. Please join us in supporting Gail Dekreon.

Finally, please vote for lesbian candidate Carole Migden who is running for the State Board of Equalization. She will bring reform and vision to this office.

Our opposition votes even if we don't. Vote November 5th. Please take this guide to the polls.

The future of our city is at stake.

Harvey Milk

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender

Democratic Club

Governor.....No Position
Lieutenant Governor.....**CRUZ BUSTAMANTE**
Secretary of State.....**KEVIN SHELLEY**
Controller.....**STEVE WESTLY**
Treasurer.....**PHIL ANGELIDES**
Attorney General.....**BILL LOCKYER**



Insurance Commission **JOHN GARAMENDI**
Board of Equalization.....**CAROLE MIGDEN**
State Senate, District 8.....**JACKIE SPIER**
State Assembly Dist. 12.....No Endorsement
State Assembly Dist. 13.....**MARK LENO**
Judge, Seat 10.....**GAIL DEKREON**

Supervisor, Dist. 2.....**Lynne Newhouse Segal**

Lynne Newhouse Segal will empower District Two residents in their battles over major neighborhood issues. Segal's record as a commissioner is superb and we are proud to endorse her.



Supervisor, Dist. 4.....**Barry Hermanson**

Barry Hermanson-a homeowner who has lived in the Sunset District for 24 years and cares about, affordability, diversity and livability. He brings a progressive voice to the West Side.



Supervisor, Dist. 6.....**Chris Daly**

Chris Daly reversed Republican cuts to HIV/AIDS programs and passed the strongest protections against evictions in more than a decade.



Supervisor, Dist. 8.....**Eileen Hansen** ▽

Eileen Hansen offers leadership with three decades of determined, effective advocacy working on important issues: housing, planning and zoning; health; labor; the environment; and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender rights.



Supervisor, Dist. 10.....**Sophie Maxwell**

Maxwell has focused on the most important issue in her district: the highly toxic environment Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero Hill residents have to live in. Her dedication is extraordinary.



Assessor/Recorder.....**Doris Ward**



Board of Education.....**Sarah Lipson, Whitney Leigh**



Community College
Anita Grier.....
.....**Johnnie Carter**
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California Propositions

Proposition 46 Housing/Emergency TrustYES
Proposition 47 Kindergarten/Univ. Education Bond.....YES
Proposition 48 Court ConsolidationNo Position
Proposition 49 Before & After School Programs.....YES
Proposition 50 Safe Drinking Water ProjectsYES
Proposition 51 Transportation, Allocation of Taxes.....No Position
Proposition 52 Election Day Voter RegistrationYES

San Francisco Propositions - Bond Measures

A Water Revenue Bond/Hetch Hetchy.....YES
The effort to save Hetch-Hetchy and make our water system safe
B Affordable Housing Bonds.....YES
Big Developers and Landlord groups are working hard to defeat Proposition B
C Veterans Building.....No Position

Charter Amendments

D Energy Self Sufficiency and Clean Energy.....YES
Proposition D would limit PG&E's control over our city's energy policy, enabling San Francisco to shut down polluting power plants. Shut down PG&E.
E Changes to Public Utilities Reform the PUC.....YES
F Entertainment Commission Creates an Entertainment Commission.....YES
G Assistance to Elections Department.....YES
H Retirement for Police & Fire Personnel.....YES
Bring retirement benefits for our public safety officers (Firefighters and Police) up to the statewide average and it won't cost taxpayers a cent.
I Paid Parental Leave Paid Parental Leave for City Workers.....YES
J Supervisors Salary Civil Service Commission.....YES

Ordinances

K Selection of Official Newspapers.....YES
Put a stop to the Independent's public notice sweetheart deal that robs our general fund annually.
L Real Property Transfer Tax Ordinance.....YES
Last year, Downtown interests sued the City and took \$30 million dollars annually from the City budget. Proposition L would recover that lost revenue through a tax on transfers of high-end houses and commercial real estate. Big commercial landlords are spending over a million dollars to defeat this measure despite the fact the City will face a huge fiscal crisis next year. We pay our fair share in taxes so should Downtown.
M City Economic Development Plan.....NO
N Slashing General Assistance Benefits.....NO
"Care not Cash," If an LGBT person suffers homophobic harassment, is attacked or even raped at a homeless shelter and will not go back to that same shelter, his/her general assistance benefits will be cut.
O Exits from Homelessness Housing for GA Recipients.....YES
For a real solution to homelessness, Vote Yes on O
P Public Utilities Bond Oversight Committee.....No Position
Q No City Funds for Political Activity.....No Position
R Condo Conversions/Rent Control Repeal.....NO
A landlord backed condo-conversion measure that would remove rent control. Beware of phoney "lifetime lease" promises that will not stand up in court.

Declaration of Policy


S Medical Cannabis Medical Marijuana.....YES
BART G.O. Seismic Retrofit.....YES

Lesbian/Gay Candidates designated by ▽

Please Vote November 5th 2002

ENDORSEMENTS

Take This Guide To The Polls



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 11 AM
Preview: Sunday, October 20, 11-5 PM; Thursday, October 24, 11-7 PM;
Friday, October 25, 11-7 PM; day of sale, 9 AM

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Manufacturers defend N-9 condoms

by Ed Walsh

Why do manufacturers continue to produce condoms lubricated with nonoxynol-9 spermicide despite lack of proof that it offers any benefit to the consumer and despite studies that show that N-9 lube significantly increases the risk of HIV?

Those fighting N-9 say the answer is simple: money. N-9 condoms constitute about 40 percent of sales, the activists say. For two of the three big names in N-9 condoms, LifeStyles and Durex, the answer is equally as simple. They simply won't answer the question.

A spokesman for the third major manufacturer still making N-9 condoms under the Trojan brand, Church and Dwight, told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an e-mail: "A condom lubricated with N-9 is an important product for women as a back-up contraceptive."

However, according to the World Health Organization's June 2002 report on N-9: "There is no evidence that condoms lubricated with nonoxynol-9 are any more effective in preventing pregnancy or infection than condoms lubricated with silicone, and such condoms should no longer be promoted."

The Trojan spokesman did not respond when confronted with the WHO report that contradicts

the company's justification for continuing to make N-9 condoms.

Several condom makers, including Oakland-based Mayer Laboratories, have stopped making N-9 condoms, citing health concerns and lack of any benefit to the consumer.

When SSL International, the company that makes Durex condoms, was asked by the B.A.R. what benefit N-9 condoms pro-

vided with N9 are not intended for frequent multiple daily use and are for vaginal use only."

But the least responsive company was Ansell Limited, the manufacturer of LifeStyles condoms. The company's spokeswoman parroted that it made a product that is approved by the Food and Drug Administration and that all questions should be directed to that agency.

An FDA spokeswoman, who

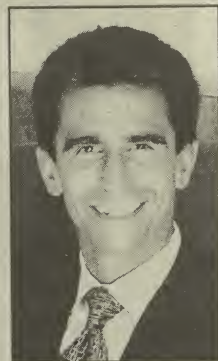
When asked why the FDA allows N-9 condoms on the market when they have not been proven to be safe or effective, the spokeswoman said she couldn't answer the question.

vide to the consumer, the company replied with a press release riddled with misspellings that never answered the question. When asked again, a company spokeswoman replied: "I'm not in a position to say any more on this issue at this stage."

The SSL press release did make note of the WHO report and the company said it is "taking steps to implement labelling [sic] changes for those condom products within our range which contain N9. This will advise that condoms lu-

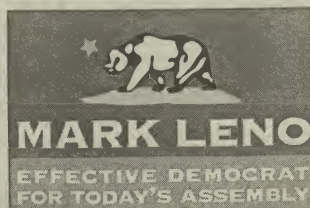
asked not to be named, said that the agency is working on new labeling requirements for N-9 condoms. When asked why the FDA allows N-9 condoms on the market when they have not been proven to be safe or effective, the spokeswoman said she couldn't answer the question.

After public pressure, all manufacturers recently decided to stop making lubricants laced with N-9, but so far most major condom makers have shown little sign that they're ready to back down. ▼



"Thank you LGBT community for your support. Together on November 5 we will make history by electing the first openly gay man to the State Legislature."

Mark Leno



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**Bevan Dufty ▼ District 8**

Clean streets and neighborhoods. Reform of homeless programs – Care Not Cash. More affordable home ownership options. No MUNI cutbacks. Responsive city agencies. Bevan Dufty gets things done.



Sophie Maxwell
District 10



Gavin Newsom
District 2



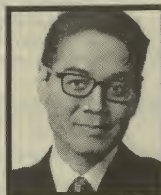
Fiona Ma
District 4

**Mabel Teng for Assessor-Recorder**

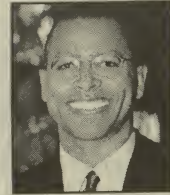
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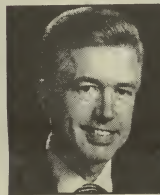
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Superior Court Judge



Lawrence Wong ▼
College Board



Danny Guillory
Board of Education

**Re-elect Governor Gray Davis**

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YES on N

Care not Cash

YES on H

Firefighter, Police & Paramedic Equity

YES on B
Affordable Housing

YES on BB
BART Retrofit

NO on K
Protect Affirmative Action



Steve Westly
Controller



Carole Migden ▼
Board of Equalization



Mark Leno ▼
Assembly, District 13



ALICE B. TOKLAS
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DEMOCRATIC CLUB

ELECTION RECOMMENDATIONS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

LGBT Candidates ▼**FEDERAL & STATE OFFICES**

U.S. CONGRESSNancy Pelosi
GOVERNORGray Davis
LT. GOVERNOR . . .Cruz Bustamante
SECRETARY OF STATE . .Kevin Shelley
CONTROLLERSteve Westly
TREASURERPhil Angelides
ATTORNEY GENERAL . . .Bill Lockyer
INSURANCE COMMISSIONER John Garamendi
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION Carole Migden ▼
SUPT. PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Jack O'Connell
STATE SENATE District 8 . . Jackie Speier

STATE ASSEMBLY District 13
MARK LENO* ▼

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FIONA MA*
SOPHIE MAXWELL
GAVIN NEWSOM*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

EDDIE CHIN
DANNY GUILLORY*
DR. DAN KELLY*

COLLEGE BOARD

LAWRENCE WONG* ▼
JOHNNIE CARTER*
DR. ANITA GRIER*

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

GAIL DEKREON* ▼

ASSESSOR-RECORDER

MABEL TENG*

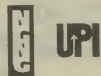
CITY PROPOSITIONS

Prop A Water BondsYES
Prop B Affordable Housing BondsYES*
Prop C Veterans Building BondsYES
Prop D Public PowerYES
Prop E Water & Sewer RatesYES
Prop F Entertainment CommissionYES
Prop G Elections AssistanceYES
Prop H Police & Firefighter RetirementYES*
Prop I Paid Parental LeaveYES
Prop J Supervisors SalariesYES
Prop K Protect Affirmative ActionNO*
Prop L Real Estate TaxYES
Prop N Care Not CashYES*
Prop P Revenue Bond Oversight Comm.NO
Prop S Medical MarijuanaYES
Prop BB BART Seismic RetrofitYES*

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Prop 46 Housing BondsYES
Prop 47 School Construction BondYES
Prop 48 Court ConsolidationYES
Prop 50 Water Quality BondsYES
Prop 52 Election Day Voter RegistrationYES

BAY AREA REPORTER

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OPEN FORUM

Propositions explained

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Proposition A **Vote YES**
Water Bonds

The time has come to bite the bullet. For years the city has been diverting hundreds of millions of dollars from water sales to put in the general fund. The Hetch Hetchy system has suffered from deferred maintenance for many years. We must upgrade the system to ensure a safe drinking water supply. This is not just for San Franciscans but other counties around the bay as well which pay much more for water than we do. We strongly recommend a YES vote on Prop. A.

Proposition B **Vote YES**
Affordable Housing Bonds

In an ongoing program to build affordable housing the city must issue new bonds to help defray these costs. The money would be used to rehab older units, build new ones, and help to finance first-time buyers in the purchase of a new home. Also, most of this money would be matched with outside financial assistance. This proposition, like Proposition A, is being fought by landlords, apartment house owners, and other self-serving groups. Look in the voter handbook to see the broad support for this measure and then look at those who oppose it. Affordable housing is necessary. We urge a YES vote on Prop. B.

Proposition C **Vote YES**
Veterans Building Bonds

This building was severely damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake, like other buildings in Civic Center. It is among the last to be retrofitted. This bond issue would expand some of the unused space to provide public access to performing arts groups. There would be more than adequate space for veterans groups. This measure is opposed by a small number of veterans organizations, while other groups support it. We wrote a strong editorial on this proposition in early September. We recommend a YES vote on Prop. C.

Proposition D **Vote NO**
Energy

We have long opposed the takeover of the electric services by the city. First, cheaper rates would not occur. Second, we see the city siphoning off the money to add to an already bloated city budget. Third, the cost to take over the system from PG&E would be prohibitive — approximately \$3 billion. We continue to urge you to vote NO on Prop. D.

Proposition E **Vote YES**
Water and Sewer Rates, Surplus Funds

If Proposition A passes, and we hope it will, this proposition would help to keep the costs of the bonds down, thus more affordable. It would allow the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to issue bonds with a 2/3 majority approval of the Board of Supervisors. Bond underwriters charge more for voter-approved bonds issues; we don't know why, they just do. We urge a YES vote on Prop. E.

Proposition F **Vote NO**
Entertainment Commission Appointments

This is another slap at the current mayor's authority to transfer more power to the Board of Supervisors. We are sorry that this fractious board can't get along with the mayor. Hell, they can't even get along with themselves. This is another reason to return to at-large voting instead of district elections, which we opposed as well. Having lived through this once before and losing Harvey Milk was enough. Don't give them more power. Vote NO on Prop. F.

Proposition G **Vote YES**
Elections Assistance

This is a cost-saving measure and it would help to speed up the vote tally. It would allow other city departments to help the elections department staff members in all tasks except vote counting. We think the

time has come to cut back on some elections costs. Vote YES on Prop. G.

Proposition H **Vote YES**
Police and Firefighter Retirement Benefits

This is an interesting proposition on the ballot — no opposition at all. Why? Because it is a win-win for the city. It would increase retirement benefits for all future retirees after January 1, 2003. With billions of dollars in an overfunded retirement plan, it would not cost us anything for at least 10 years. If the surplus dries up then the retirees would pay for the extra benefits themselves. Vote YES on Prop. H.

Proposition I **Vote YES**
Paid parental leave

This would allow the city to supplement from 12 to 16 weeks of paid leave for city employees who take time off after the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child. The employee would have to use up vacation time, sick leave, and disability benefits before it would kick in. Employees who resign before six months is up would have to pay back the paid parental leave. Sounds fair. Vote YES on I.

Proposition J **Vote YES**
Supervisors Salaries

We have long advocated a decent wage for supervisors. It would bring us better candidates and professional people would run for the board. Salaries would be set by the Civil Service Commission and be based on comparable wages paid to supervisors in other counties. Our supervisors work full time now and we can't afford to lose their time with secondary jobs so that they can make a decent living. Vote YES on J.

Proposition K **Vote NO**
Selection of Official Newspaper

This proposition smacks of some kind of personal vendetta; we don't know why. The amount of paid ballot arguments against it is quite extensive, including the mayor and three supervisors. We think the system should stay the way it is. Vote NO on K.

Proposition L **Vote NO**
Real Estate Transfer Tax

This is another way to try and make up money that was lost to the city. It's also a payback to big businesses who sued to stop the exorbitant business tax, which the city lost. We have lost many businesses from the city; those tax revenues and fees helped support our budget. This measure would only drive more businesses out of the city. Why penalize people who have, over the years, seen their homes increase in value? Stop unnecessary taxation. Vote NO on Prop. L.

Proposition M **Vote NO**
Economic Development

This proposition smacks of a tit-for-tat strike by the mayor at the Board of Supervisors. It would give new duties to the Office of Economic Development, and would take money from the business taxes to fund it. This money would come from the general fund (already stretched to cover myriad city services) to help pay for it. It would override the board's authority to enact legislation concerning the city's economy, including business development, employment, and revenue. Stop the grab by the mayor. Vote NO on Prop. M.

Proposition N **Vote YES**
Adjusting Services and Payment to Homeless Individuals (Care Not Cash)

Finally, a measure to address the homeless problem in San Francisco. While this is unlikely to solve the entire homeless issue, it is definitely a step in the right direction. This went on the ballot with an overwhelming number of petition signatures. Obviously, the public is concerned and it is willing to do something about the problem — unlike the majority of elected officials, who've been stymied for years and unable to develop an action plan. We strongly urge a YES vote on Proposition N.

Proposition O **Vote NO**
Conditions for Providing Services and Payment to Homeless Individuals (Exits from Homelessness)

This measure was placed on the ballot at the last minute by Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano in opposition to Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Care Not Cash (Proposition N). Ammiano sponsored this initiative to help save face in his lack of leadership on the homeless issue. There are no concrete figures provided in this measure, and no details as to how it would be implemented. Don't be misled. Vote NO on Prop. O.

Proposition P **Vote NO**
Revenue Bond Oversight Committee

Just what we don't need is another committee to help oversee bond spending. An example of the costs would be if Proposition A passes (and we hope it does), an estimated \$814,000 would be for committee expenses over the life of the bonds. We don't need this. Vote NO on Prop. P.

Proposition Q **Vote NO**
Use of City Funds

On the surface this ordinance doesn't look bad, but we're concerned about the ramifications. The law is quite clear on this subject; no city contractor can use city funds for any kind of campaigning. This looks like an attack on some nonprofit groups that may have opposed the mayor in some of his schemes. We don't believe we need to change the law at this time. Vote NO on Prop. Q.

Proposition R **Vote YES**
Condominium Conversion with Certain Conditions

This was placed on the ballot by petition and had sufficient signatures to go before voters. We see this measure as a means for first-time buyers to have a chance at owning a piece of property to call home. While it's still not a perfect answer to the housing market, it is a start. Vote YES on R.

Proposition S **Vote YES**
Medical Marijuana

Should the city consider growing marijuana for medical purposes? We say yes; this is a no-brainer. Vote YES on S.

Proposition BB **Vote YES**
BART Seismic Safety Bond

BART officials have long been concerned about the safety of the system in the event of another major earthquake. The transit system proved vital during 1989 when the Bay Bridge was out of commission following the Loma Prieta earthquake. Now BART must update the system to meet seismic safety standards. The time is now to repair the infrastructure. Vote YES on BB.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 46 **Vote YES**
Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2002

Proposition 46 provides emergency shelters for battered women and children, affordable housing for low-income families, and affordable housing for seniors. Some funds for homeless shelters with social services are paid out of existing state funds without raising existing taxes. The measure is endorsed by a diverse coalition of groups, from the AARP to the League of Women Voters. The state could sell \$2.1 billion in bonds to support various housing projects. We think it is a good issue. Vote YES on Prop. 46.

Proposition 47 **Vote YES**
Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2002

This bond issue would raise money to help upgrade some facilities, build new ones, and help modernize and refurbish our oldest schools. It would also earmark money for our community colleges and the state

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LETTERS

Keeping gay murderers behind bars

Not just some gays but also some Republicans must be delighted to attack Governor Davis for keeping the convicted killers, Mark Smith and Robert Rosenkrantz, behind bars. Davis's enemies, hoping for another Willie Horton, would like nothing better than the release of such murderers followed by new acts of violence on their part.

As a Democrat and an opponent of capital punishment, I want to keep the men locked up. Don't put Davis at risk of paying the price Michael Dukakis paid in the presidential election of 1988.

Davis has given us strong environmental legislation, earning the endorsement of the Sierra Club, protected women's right to choose, and strengthened gay partnerships.

Pick and snip at him, vote for a Green, and get what? A Republican businessman as governor who will block progressive legislation.

Vote for Davis now and work toward electoral reforms like instant runoff, which will allow us a more nuanced expression of our wishes in the future.

Jay Lyon
San Francisco

TV news got it wrong

It shocks me that the mainstream press has learned nothing after dealing with the transgender community after all this time. Sensationalism seems to be the name of the game, rather than sensitivity. I shuddered when the story first broke on the news. I was watching Channel 7, when I heard that "he" was probably killed for "his lifestyle." I called the TV station and informed them that the person that they were referring to was transgender, and that it was not a "style" of life, but who they were. I also chastised them for having a "gay activist" talk about the case when there were plenty of transgender activists that were far better qualified to discuss transgender situations and things that affected the transgender community. I gave them several names, such as Marcus Arana, Shawna Virago, Theresa Sparks, Gwendolyn Ann Smith, and even offered up myself to be contacted.

The wrong pronouns were used, and in the wrong context. Gwen Araujo was formerly Eddie, and had come out to her mother at the age of 14. That is very courageous in itself, and it is one of the things that I admire in today's youth; that they are courageous. In order to tell the story, it should be told of how a girl finally realized herself, and about the struggle of freeing herself from her birth chains, and her new found freedom. When her body was found in a skirt and peasant blouse, with contrary genitalia, it should have been clearly noted that the person could have been transgender. Upon investigation, it was revealed that she was; and yet they are milking the "boy" and incorrect pronouns as late as Saturday morning. If the mother who accepted that her son was now her daughter, and stated that she would put "Gwen" on her daughter's gravestone, and friends who in the middle of interviews "caught themselves" in the midst of starting to call Gwen "he" and correcting it to "she" could use the correct pronouns and accept who Gwen was, then the press should have had the common decency to tell the story from that perspective, and with the same compassion and sensitivity used by others. This is a great tragedy unto itself, but it is an even greater tragedy that after all of this time the press and newscasters in the Bay Area still don't "get it." Maybe that is the first place that sensitivity training and understanding should start, with the people reporting the crimes against the transgender community. My heartfelt pain and sympathy are extended to Gwen's family, and friends who loved her, and accepted her for who she was.

Veronika Cauley, LVN
Commissioner of Veteran's Affairs
City and County of San Francisco

What's he gonna say next?

Supervisor Chris Daly raves about his endorsement list out of one side of his mouth, and out of the other side he rants against the local political "machine." Never mind that his endorsement list is replete with the movers and shakers of the machine. Indeed, Daly can be said to be the machine candidate this time around.

Daly conveniently fails to mention that not one of the legitimate political organizations of the district has endorsed him. Daly's support comes largely from the radical left and the innocents who he has hoodwinked into believing he gives a damn. The only thing that Chris Daly gives a damn about is Chris Daly. He carpebagged into the district in May 2000 and only then became a Democrat, after years he spent bashing the party as a candidate of the "progressive left," a Che Guevara-type front group. Daly is already claiming victory as he rides the waves of his campaign to fame and fortune. Waves generated by innuendo, distortion, exaggeration, and outright lies. Daly is in for a surprise on November 5 as the undertow of discontent of the residents of District 6 will sweep him under.

Daly has wasted the last two years mired in contro-

versy, intrigue, and embarrassment, while the profound problems that the residents of the district face daily continue unabated. Go and take a look around. Anything changed for the better? Had enough? Then vote to "dump Daly" on November 5. You deserve better.

The District 6 Democratic Club membership consists of actual residents and businesses of the district, unlike some of the groups supporting Daly. We know best what is good for our district. We are proud to support Burke Strunsky for District 6 supervisor. We know that he will keep the promises he makes.

Frederick Hobson, President
District 6 Democratic Club

Bevan Dufty gets it

Homelessness is arguably the number one city concern on the minds of San Francisco residents. Consequently, it's a hot-button issue for the November election.

I want a candidate for supervisor who understands the realities and needs of addressing difficult urban problems with compassionate, workable solutions. Bevan Dufty has a broad, real, firsthand knowledge of San Francisco's issues from his five-plus years as the director of neighborhood services. On a daily basis, he and his staff effectively addressed and solved problems affecting neighborhoods throughout San Francisco. He also has substantive local and federal government experience and knowledge of how to effectively navigate the public sector toward results.

I would venture that Bevan Dufty's support for Care Not Cash is a very informed decision. But it doesn't take more than a walk down the block - any block - in the Castro to grasp that the status quo is unacceptable and heartless. Care Not Cash is not an automatic fix to the complex problems of the issue. But it does seem to move the city in the right direction toward addressing this very real neighborhood dilemma.

Homelessness is just one of many urgent city issues affecting the neighborhoods that are the purview of the Board of Supervisors. Still, neither Eileen Hansen nor Tom Radulovich support Care Not Cash. That's something serious to keep in mind when you go to vote on November 5.

Katharine Holland
Co-Chair Women for Bevan
San Francisco

Radulovich has track record

One thing is clear from the letters to the editor that have appeared here in recent weeks. Bevan Dufty and Eileen Hansen want to make this campaign about the evils of each other while offering no vision for a better San Francisco. This is exactly the campaign that Gray Davis and Bill Simon have waged against each other and the only thing that is evident in that race is this: voters are turned off by both candidates.

Tom Radulovich is the only candidate in this race who has an effective track record of solving problems - big and small. And he's the only candidate who is offering a grand vision for San Francisco's future. He took on Muni reform and helped make it a better transit system than the one that melted down in 1998. He led community redesign efforts at the 16th, 24th, and Glen Park BART stations - which will transform these dull, and in some cases, blight-stricken promenades into beautiful urban centers. And he is working with Castro neighborhood activists to bring the same transformation to Harvey Milk Plaza.

He is following in the footsteps of Supervisor Mark Leno - somebody who has been an effective leader for District 8. Radulovich will be the same type of leader. That's why he has been endorsed by Mark Leno. This is the type of leadership that we deserve.

Amandeep Jawa
San Francisco

Feels like Yoda

I am writing this simply because I cannot remain silent upon the issue of Care Not Cash. It saddens me that even here in San Francisco, we are willing to treat the symptoms of a problem, rather than treat the actual problem.

One does not build a house without the proper foundation. One does not tear out a wall without renting one of those terribly expensive dumpsters that are so mandatory.

As someone who works directly with homeless folks, yet is not affected financially in terms of my program by any of the proposed changes, I have to ask: "Just what are the services you will be 'providing' after you cut the cash?" There already are not enough services, and those in existence are either full or under restrictions. The true needy, those who need and desire help in terms of rehab, emergency housing, transitional housing, and emotional or psychological counseling are not getting help now. Really. It is a lie to announce that they will be forced to access services because there are none in place yet for them to access.

This Jedi mind trick must cease. Oh, Gavin New-

next page ►

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Mailstrom

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som, do not be seduced by the dark side. You held so much promise for me, and now I feel like Yoda, wondering what went wrong. Be a real leader, have the courage to table this issue until next year. Bring others to the table and think outside that little box. You could be the "Golden Mayor" if you stop now, and really think this all out.

Yes, I am in support of a needed reform in the social services system but this is not the way to do it. I want those who access these services to be held accountable, and be an active part of society. Yet I must insist that those who work for the system also be held accountable — particularly those in upper management positions, who set the policies and procedures. Let us take their cash, and see how much they care.

Learn what is real for yourself. Remember who and where you are.

Mitcho
San Francisco

A wealth of experience

Bevan Dufty has a wealth of experience in San Francisco government, and for years, he's been a great help to me. When I complained about Muni, he took the brunt of my anger and directed me to the proper person. When couches appeared on my sidewalk, Dufty knew whom to call. When I wanted to appeal a parking ticket, Dufty was again resourceful. No grandstanding, no attitude, just customer-friendly advice. And the more I meet those who support him, the more I hear about the good work he's done for others in my community. That's the kind of supervisor I want. He cares about neighborhood problems that I care about; he's well connected and well respected, and he's got my vote. Please join me in supporting Bevan Dufty for District 8 supervisor.

Jamie Austin
San Francisco

Support Prop. A

It seems everyone agrees that our Hetch Hetchy water system is at risk. The nearly 100-year-old Hetch Hetchy water delivery system is drastically in need of repairs for seismic upgrades and water quality improvements. The ability of our Public Utilities Commission to handle such a large project is a concern, but as a city we must come together and take responsibility for this great asset and approve Proposition A, and then hold everyone accountable for getting the work done on time and on budget.

The LGBT community is lucky because we have one of our own at the helm of the SFPUC: Pat Martel. In the job only one year, Ms. Martel is an impressive leader of one of the country's largest utilities. The leadership she showed as president of the Community Center board of directors will serve her well as she rebuilds the water system. Because of her skills, I have confidence that the SFPUC can handle this large undertaking.

Proposition A is affordable, necessary, and overdue. Most residents will not see their water bill increase by very much, and the small increases still put us below other counties in the region.

Don't be fooled — if San Francisco does not pass Proposition A, we will lose control of our water system and beautiful Hetch Hetchy.

I'm voting yes on A.

Denyelle Ganshirt
San Francisco

Support Prop. B

Last year the AIDS Legal Referral Panel sponsored a panel on the housing crisis for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco. For people struggling to maintain their health in the face of this horrible disease, there is no issue more critical than access to safe, affordable, and supportive housing. The testimony was quite compelling as we heard story after story from folks who were at risk of losing their housing and, at the same time, losing the very services that have enabled them to manage their illness. That is why the AIDS Legal Referral Panel has endorsed Proposition B, which will support the development of critically needed affordable housing for low income San Franciscans, including those living with HIV/AIDS. Please remember to vote this November and please support Proposition B, the affordable housing bond measure.

Bill Hirsh, Esq.
Executive Director
AIDS Legal Referral Panel

No on Prop. 52

My household just received a mailer from the California Democratic Party in support of Proposition 52, the Election Day Voter Registration initiative. It contains misleading information, stating that under current California election law many people may actually be denied the right to vote — like citizens who turn 18, move, or return home from military service just before an election. In reality, citizens who will turn 18 on or before Election Day can still register to vote before the deadline; people who move after the

deadline but before Election Day can vote at their old precincts one more time before having to re-register; and people who return from military service elsewhere but have maintained a permanent residence in California can apply for absentee ballots or vote in their home precinct on Election Day.

The deadline to register to vote in any election is a whopping 15 days before that election. Most people plan their social activities and summer vacations much further in advance than 15 days.

Don't be fooled by supporters of Proposition 52. People who fail to vote usually do so by choice, not because they are not eligible.

Rebecca Woo
San Francisco

Queers against CNC

This is regarding Gavin Newsom's op-ed last week on his Care Not Cash initiative ["*Proposition N: Real care, not inadequate cash*," October 17]. For members of our community, this measure means anything but "care."

Under Proposition N, Care Not Cash, if an LGBT person is attacked, raped, beaten, or subjected to homophobic harassment at a homeless shelter and does not go back to that same shelter, his/her general assistance benefits are cut.

A woman who is raped or attacked at a shelter and who does not go back to that same shelter has her benefits cut. In fact, any person beaten or harassed at a shelter has no choice but to return to the scene of their assault or have their benefits cut.

Newsom, who created this initiative with the backing of big downtown money, confirmed this at the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club endorsement meeting in August. He admitted that persons who do not go back to a shelter even after being attacked will have their benefits cut. Explaining this "poison pill," Proposition N campaign manager Jim Ross told the *Bay Area Reporter* (Sept. 26): "Somebody that harasses somebody else in a shelter is committing a major rule violation, which puts their own GA at risk, so there's now a bigger punishment tool for that kind of behavior."

Would you go back to a place where you were beaten or raped, even if you thought your attacker might be punished in some way?

Proposition N will punish those homeless people who won't go back into life-threatening situations, whether or not their attackers are punished.

The city already has a plan to tackle homelessness, the Continuum of Care. It's been endorsed by hundreds of community groups and many supervisors. But the city has yet to implement it because the will is not there in City Hall.

Proposition N is not a solution. It will only put homeless queers and others at greater risk. The backers of Proposition N don't seem to understand that we as LGBT people live every day with the threat of being beaten or killed because of who we are. Putting our lives at risk by forcing us to choose between our safety and general assistance benefits is immoral and homophobic.

Vote no on Proposition N. Protect every member of our community.

Tommi Avicoli Mecca, Lenore Chinn, Ken White
Robert Haaland, Jerry Threet, Vince Pietromatire
Doug Comstock, Reverend Jim Mitulski, Mara Math
San Francisco

SF: A mecca for snobbery

San Francisco is a mecca for snobbish, cliquish gays who are involved in the drug scene, have money, and/or good looks. This is especially the case with the gay bars, theaters, and sex clubs. This city can be a very miserable place for poor and homeless gays (like myself) who don't fit into any of these categories.

We are now seeing more and more division among gays, whites, Hispanics, blacks, etc. both in San Francisco and nationwide. This is really a battle between the haves and the have-nots. The haves don't care about fairness, compassion, or what is right. This is why many snobbish, conservative rich gays in the Castro and other neighborhoods are supporting Supervisor Gavin Newsom's anti-homeless Proposition N, Care Not Cash.

If this snobbish, conservative Pacific Heights rich boy runs for mayor and is elected next year, I firmly believe that he will be a repeat of Frank Jordan. I will eagerly and proudly be supporting Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammann if he decides to run for mayor.

We were in a national recession in 1992 that was hurting the Bay Area much worse than other regions of the country. This helped Frank Jordan scapegoat the homeless and get elected mayor by a landslide that year. His war against the homeless and other crusades finally backfired and created his landslide re-election defeat. Now, these same economic conditions exist again nationally and here while Newsom is pushing his Proposition N idea.

Snobbish, conservative, rich gays in the Castro and other neighborhoods played a major role in the election victory and re-election defeat of Jordan.

David Raffield
San Francisco

POLITICS

SF supe candidates in campaign sprint

by Wayne Friday

Following the return of district election for supervisors two years ago, the length of their terms was determined by lot and those representing the city's "even" districts were forced to run again this year.

In District 2, Pacific Heights and the Marina, incumbent Supervisor **Gavin Newsom**, who was re-elected unopposed two years ago after having originally been appointed by the mayor, is opposed this year by three challengers: former Recreation and Park Commissioner **Lynne Newhouse Segal**, an attorney and longtime Democratic Party activist; **H. (Harold) Brown**, a journalist and previous supe candidate; and **Len Pettigrew**, a one-time pro football player and special education teacher. Though Newhouse Segal has a well-financed campaign, incumbent Newsom, the author of Proposition N (Care Not Cash) and a probable candidate for mayor next year, deserves re-election and should win that race easily on November 5.

In District 4, the Outer Sunset and Parkside, there are eight candidates running to succeed Supervisor **Leiland Yee**, who is likely headed to the state Assembly from the 12th District. The four candidates in District 4 who have the best chance of election include **Andrew Lee**, a former assistant in Mayor **Willie Brown's** Office of Neighborhood Services, who has the endorsement of Brown as well as Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley**; **Fiona Ma**, a former aide to state Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco), who, incidentally, has endorsed her candidacy; **Ed Jew**, a flower store owner and former Republican Party official; and **Ron Dudum**, a retired owner of a printing company. Yee and neighboring District 7 Supervisor **Tony Hall** have both endorsed Jew. Other District 4 candidates include **Marks Lam**; **Barry Hermanson**, a Green party member; Realtor **Krista Spence Loreto**; and **Joel Ventresca**, a perennial candidate for any number of local offices. Either Ma or Lee would serve that district well as its next supervisor.

District 6, represented by Supervisor **Chris Daly**, includes the South of Market, Tenderloin, South Beach, Civic Center, and a part of the Mission. The controversial Daly, who won election two years ago with more than 80 percent of the vote, has drawn a list of challengers who include **Burke Strunsky**, an assistant district attorney; **Arthur Jackson**, the owner of an employment agency, who has served both as a Health Commissioner and a Commissioner on Aging; **Michael Sweet**, an attorney and neighborhood activist; **Garrett Jenkins**, a longtime Tenderloin resident and activist who works with the North of Market Planning Coalition; **Malinka Moye**, a self-described scientist, who also happens to have a lengthy arrest record; **James Leo Dunn**, an inventor; **Roger Gordon**, a neighborhood development director; and **Robert Power**, a member



Sir Elton John, left, and Supervisor Mark Leno at AIDS gala.

of the Libertarian party. The two openly queer candidates are **Jenkins**, a bisexual, and **Power**, who is gay. Daly has a well-organized grassroots campaign and will likely win re-election to this seat, but not until after a December runoff. I'd recommend a vote for **Burke Strunsky** to voters in District 6.

In District 8, where a vacancy occurs due to Supervisor **Mark Leno's** likely advancement to the Assembly from District 13, there are three particularly well-known candidates—all from the LGBT community: **Bevan Dufty**, **Tom Radulovich**, and **Eileen Hansen**.



Bevan Dufty

Three lesser-known candidates include **Shawn O'Hearn**, a former supervisorial candidate and Democratic Party activist; **James Green**, a firefighter-paramedic who also once ran for the board; and **Starchild**, a Libertarian who's an exotic dancer and male escort. As a longtime resident of this district, this one is easy for me. **Bevan Dufty**, who strongly supports Proposition N, the Care Not Cash initiative (the other major candidates oppose it) is by far the best choice for this district that includes the Castro, Noe Valley, and Diamond Heights. Live in District 8? Join me in voting for Dufty for supervisor on November 5.

The District 10 area of the Bayview-Hunters Point, and Potrero Hill neighborhoods has apparently been so well represented by Supervisor **Sophie Maxwell** that no one filed to run against her this year. Maxwell not only well deserves another term, but should be the next president of the Board of Supervisors.

Politics and people

Supervisor **Mark Leno** was featured on the weekend network news show **CBS Sunday Morning** discussing his upcoming ballot measure (Proposition 5) that would allow San Francisco to explore the possibility of growing its own medical marijuana.

Never one to miss an AIDS gala, Leno was also at "An Enduring Vision" benefit last week, held at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. The October 16 event recognized the philanthropic efforts of Sir **Elton John** and his **Elton John AIDS Foundation's** fight against HIV/AIDS. The event raised more than \$1 million. Sir Elton was joined by Academy Award nominated filmmaker **Baz Luhrmann** and his Academy Award-winning wife **Catherine Martin**, as well as filmmaker **George Lucas**, **Neil Young**, **Sammy** and **Kari Hager** and Mayor **Willie L. Brown**.

One boondoggle San Francisco voters don't need—the so-called **Energy Self-Sufficiency** scheme. Vote no on Proposition D.

Two other local propositions that deserve your utmost interest: Vote yes on Proposition N and vote no on Proposition O; let's finally do something about San Francisco being known as the "city of and for the homeless."

Assistant S.F. District Attorney **Mike Menesini** has picked up the valuable endorsements of U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** and state Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** in his bid to become the next district attorney of Contra Costa County; voters in that East Bay county would do themselves well in voting for Menesini for D.A. on November 5.

Conservative Supervisor **Tony Hall** (District 7) told newsman **Bruce Pettit** on last week's AT&T Newshour program that he "hasn't made up his mind yet but is inclined to" run for mayor next year. Another prospective mayoral candidate, **Angela Alioto**, is hoping Hall jumps in the race. Alioto was recently overheard chirping "run, Tony, run," apparently in the hopes that Hall's possible votes would come at the expense of leading mayoral hopeful **Gavin Newsom**.

San Francisco Congresswoman **Nancy Pelosi**, with a solidly safe Democratic seat of her own, is campaigning hard for Democratic House candidates across the country; Pelosi would likely become the nation's first-ever female speaker of the House of Representatives if Democrats should regain control next month. It is expected

next page ►

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BAY AREA REPORTER OCTOBER 10, 2002

"For the past few years, local candidates have seemingly been characterized as either a 'Brown person' or an 'Ammiano person.' Today, those descriptions seem less relevant. Next year, voters will be deciding who will be our next mayor. Today we need to focus on which person who will do the best job for residents of District 8. There should be no question that **BEVAN DUFTY** is the most qualified candidate for that job." - WAYNE FRIDAY

The Examiner. OCTOBER 18, 2002

"**BEVAN DUFTY**, a candidate for supervisor in District 8, has spent more than two decades in government and public service ... In the process, Dufty has worked to improve everything from homeless services, traffic safety and youth programs to affordable housing options, neighborhood parks, energy conservation and cost-effective healthcare. Dufty, a political moderate, has lived in District 8 for a decade, and his grass-roots, block-by-block campaign has helped clarify his vision for what the neighborhood can become. He's a solid candidate and deserving of the job."

"**BEVAN DUFTY** knows how the City works. He's committed to making it work for people - and he gets the job done. We need leaders like Bevan."

City Treasurer Susan Leal

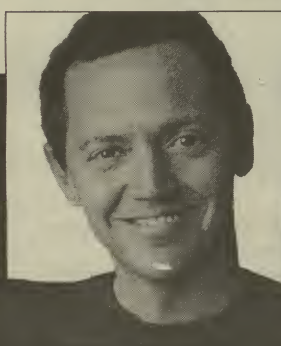


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Supervisor Gavin Newsom

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DISTRICT 8**



Rosie: The case of the not-so-nice lesbian

by Paula Martinac

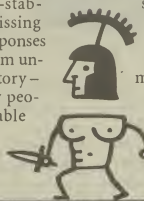
There has been mixed response in the gay community to Rosie O'Donnell's public brawl with Gruner + Jahr, publisher of her eponymous magazine. In his weekly column, Michelangelo Signorile has been sympathetic to O'Donnell, pointing out the implied homophobia of G + J's assertion that the "Queen of Nice" has changed for the worse since coming out. In contrast, journalist Steve Fries has chastised O'Donnell for presenting gay parents as "foul-mouthed" and "backstabbing." What's been missing from such gay male responses is a critique of the sexism underlying O'Donnell's story - to put it simply, many people get uncomfortable when a woman doesn't act "nice."

Although there have been some stunned gasps about O'Donnell's supposed transformation to "uber-bitch," the shift in her public persona should not have surprised anyone - except maybe those who think celebrities aren't real people. Her public coming out seems to have freed O'Donnell to reveal the many and varied

sides of her personality instead of just the "nice" one. After all, she's not a smiley-face emoticon, but a multi-dimensional human being who can be and feel different things.

Indeed, when I spoke to O'Donnell on the phone last spring in preparation for an interview, I met two Rosies.

One was a very good listener with a warm, engaging manner that made me feel like we'd known each other for years, not minutes. The other was a direct, no-nonsense business executive accustomed to laying



Lesbian Notions

down the law - what some might call a "bitch." To me, the two sides didn't seem to be in conflict. In fact, her particular combination of strong personality traits probably has a lot to do with why O'Donnell - like Oprah Winfrey - is one of the richest, most successful women around.

But 30-plus years into the second wave of feminism, the word "bitch" is still used to keep uppity women, rich and poor, in their place. There's no real male equivalent for the epithet - an outspoken, take-charge, controlling man is just the boss. "No one calls Jack Welch [former CEO of General Electric] a bitch," O'Donnell observed in her interview of Martha Stewart - another successful "bitch" - published earlier this year in *Rosie* magazine before her own troubles began.

Oddly, many men and women alike still seem to believe that being "nice," not forceful, is a woman's natural realm. Some are even incredulous or annoyed if a woman like O'Donnell ventures outside her approved sphere. O'Donnell "used to be this nice, funny, sweet woman," complained CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, a gay man. He then proceeded to ridicule her "butchy" hairstyle on national television. And what happened, Fries lamented in the *Washington Blade*, to "the likable gal pal" and "fun-loving big sister" O'Donnell used to be? Like Cooper, Fries then took a potshot at her, speculating that she decided



Christine Smith

to become a "bad grrrl" to make herself seem less average.

But consider O'Donnell's supposedly new persona from her own perspective. In an interview on the *Isaac Mizrahi Show*, she admitted to her host that having to be so "nice" all the time as a talk-show host "became a little oppressive." You don't need to be as rich as Rosie to understand what she means - just like men, women don't feel "nice" all the time, including when their work atmosphere is unpleasant or a business partnership goes sour. Expecting Rosie to just grin and bear it, regardless of what her experience with G + J was, reminds me of when I'm walking down the street, deep in serious thought, and a man - a complete stranger - comes right up to me and says "Smile!"

In a lot of ways, lesbians are the quintessence of the "not-nice" woman. We have no reason to please men, straight or gay, by smiling constantly, or wearing what they consider to be attractive hairstyles, or standing in as their nurturing big-sister and mommy figures. Some of us are angry - and show it - when men don't or won't do anything to obliterate sexism. And that includes gay men. I find it curious, for example, that some gay men turn celebrity "bitches" like Barbra and Cher into icons, but feel threatened by the angry lesbians in their own lives. Maybe that's because, to them, lesbians are "bitches" and "butches" - not a very "nice" combination, and exactly what O'Donnell is getting grief for.

For me, though, the sight of O'Donnell announcing her break with her publisher - with another "bitch," former U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, at her side as legal counsel - was a real "you go, girl" kind of moment. Good for her - and for any woman who finds the courage to step outside the constricting boundaries of "nice." ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

that House Minority Leader **Richard Gephardt** (D-Missouri) will step down shortly after the first of the year to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Considering its past heavy criticism of Governor **Gray Davis**, the *Los Angeles Times* gave the incumbent governor a pretty solid reelection endorsement last week. The *Times*, the state's most influential daily, also endorsed Kevin Shelley for secretary of state, **Steve Westly** for controller, **John Garamendi** for insurance commissioner, incumbent **Cruz Bustamante** for lieutenant governor, incumbent

Bill Lockyer for attorney general, and state Senator **Jack O'Connell** (D-San Luis Obispo) for the non-partisan post of superintendent of public instruction.

Former President **Bill Clinton** racked up no shortage of firsts - good and bad - during his two terms in the White House, but last Saturday night in Little Rock, the 42nd president claimed yet another first when he became the first white person inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. Clinton to the packed house of African American admirers: "You have looked past the color of my skin to the inside of my heart."

Meanwhile, those close to former first daughter **Chelsea Clinton** page 13 ►

HISTORY LESSON

What's so queer about Sonny and Cher?

by Q Syndicate staff

October 27, 1964 (38 years ago this week): Cherilyn Sarkisian LaPierre and Sonny Bono get married, on their way to becoming one of the most memorable couples in entertainment history.

The gay community's vibe has resonated with many celebrities, but perhaps no prominent straight couple has found its career as deeply intertwined with gays and lesbians as Salvatore Bono and Cherilyn Sarkisian LaPierre—better known as Sonny and Cher.

The story that the two met in a lesbian bar is probably apocryphal, though Cher has acknowledged erotic relationships with women in her youth, liaisons that, she later recalled, weren't "something that kept my interest."

What did keep the lanky, deep-voiced singer's interest, though, was the short, charming, goofy crooner 11 years her senior who was initially her roommate, but soon became her lover and, in 1964, her husband. Sonny and Cher each had found limited solo success, and their first attempt at working together (touring bowling alleys and skating rinks as "Caesar and Cleo") brought little acclaim.

But in 1965, Sonny wrote a simple tribute to '60s-style love, and with "I Got You Babe," Sonny and Cher made it big. For the next two years, they ruled the rock scene, with hits like "Baby Don't Go" and "The Beat Goes On." But by the end of the decade, their music had lost its audience, and two failed attempts at moviemaking left them deeply in debt. There was one bright spot for the duo, though—the birth of daughter Chastity in 1969.

Sonny and Cher began playing Las Vegas and touring, though their romance frayed and their tensions played out on stage. But the audience loved it, so Cher's put-downs and Sonny's bumbling became trademarks. At the same time, Cher became something of an icon to the burgeoning feminist movement because of her independence, forthrightness, and shattering of the narrow sexist definition of female beauty.

Their act caught Hollywood's attention, and in January 1972 their own comedy-variety TV series debuted. The show was all camp—from outrageous Bob Mackie costumes to banter filled with sexual innuendo. Sonny and Cher began recording again, and their music career was on the upswing just as their marriage could no longer hold itself together.

One cause of their breakup was Cher's affairs, including with record producer David Geffen (who came out as gay two decades later) and southern rock guitarist Greg Allman (whom she married five days after her 1975 split from Sonny).

Though divorced, Sonny and Cher nonetheless found their television careers remained wedded. Cher's solo variety show (which had something of a gay sensibility—its debut featured Bette Midler and Elton John) overwhelmed her, and having failed in his own solo show, Sonny accepted his ex-wife's invita-



Entertainers Sonny and Cher

tion to create a new *Sonny and Cher* series. That incarnation lasted for two seasons, including a very awkward period in which Cher was pregnant with Allman's baby.

Without abandoning entertainment (he played a theme park owner in the 1988 campy cult film *Hairspray*), post-Sonny-and-Cher Sonny made a bigger mark in the world of politics. A successful Palm Springs restaurateur, he was elected mayor of that city in 1988.

Despite having campaigned as a friend of the resort city's visible gay community, the Republican was widely criticized for slighting gays and lesbians personally and legislatively as mayor. In the 1994 Republican landslide, he was elected to Congress, where he consistently voted against the gay community's interests. He died in a skiing accident in 1998, and his wife, Mary, was elected to fill his seat.

Meanwhile, Cher pursued her acting career, playing a lesbian in 1983's *Silkwood*. She was nominated for an Oscar for that performance, then went on to win an Academy Award for Best Actress in *Moonstruck* (1987).

Despite the respectability bestowed by an Oscar statuette, Cher's personal and professional life fascinated gossip-hounds. She had several well-publicized romances (including one with a bagel seller two decades her junior), underwent numerous plastic surgeries, and starred in infomercials and fitness videos.

Cher's music career found new life with upbeat tunes like "One By One" and "Believe" that were embraced by audiences worldwide, but especially by gay men. Her icon status solidified as a VH-1 "Divas," Cher regularly recognizes the "fabulous gentlemen" who flock to her concerts and have consistently boosted her career.

Perhaps the queerest product of the Sonny and Cher partnership, though, was their lesbian daughter Chastity. She was featured prominently on her parents' TV show, dressed in outfits resembling Cher's, though the tomboyish Chastity eventually insisted that some of her outfits resemble Sonny's. While a teenager, she was seduced by a lesbian friend of her mother's, whom she

considered a "great lover." Though finding out about her daughter's sexuality initially took a toll on Cher, the megastar soon was soon quite supportive.

In 1990, Chastity was outed by the tabloids, an experience she later said deterred her from coming out publicly, which she eventually did in a 1995 *Advocate* cover story. She was quickly adopted by major national gay and lesbian organizations, serving as a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign and an activist for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. She left the latter job under a storm of controversy over remarks she made that implied that the *Ellen* show was becoming too gay. ▼

Past Out has been exploring gay and lesbian history for more than six years. Comments can be sent to this publication or POColumn@aol.com.

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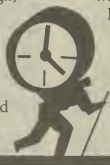
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Past Out

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View some of the shifting images of gay men and lesbians in television advertising over the past 30 years. Then, hear New York Times cultural correspondent Rick Lyman discuss these varying portrayals with Michael Wilke, executive director of The Commercial Closet Association, a nonprofit organization that tracks how gays and lesbians are depicted in advertising worldwide.



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Suggested reading

Bego, Mark and Mary Wilson. 2001. *Cher: If You Believe* (Cooper Square Press).

Bono, Chastity, with Billie Fitzpatrick. 1998. *Family Outing* (Little, Brown and Company).

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Family and friends remember mall-stabbing victim

by Zak Szymanski

The news was disturbing, but brief: an unidentified man was stabbed to death in the popular and trendy San Francisco Centre on October 10, the Market Street mall that houses several upscale retailers and eateries.

For most city residents, learning that the victim was apparently stabbed in the restroom and found lying in the food court area was enough information. But Ronda Evans wants people to know exactly who the victim was: her 29-year-old little brother, Ronnie Walters, a gay homeless man and longtime San Francisco resident with many loving friends and family members.

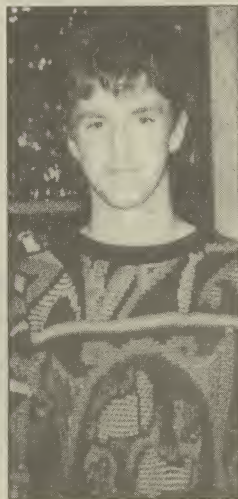
"He was just a very loved, and lovable, person," said Evans, 34, who was in San Francisco last week from her hometown of Oroville, California to claim her brother's remains. "He loved everybody, and looked out for his friends on the streets. He would do anything for anybody; it didn't matter what anyone did to him, he never saw bad in people."

Walters grew up in Oroville, said Evans, where he was subjected to taunts for most of his life.

"He always wanted to be a hairdresser, and from the time he was very young he would play with wigs and dolls," recalled Evans. "He started crossdressing, which was not acceptable in our community. He was put down, but he was always proud of who

he was. But his hometown just wasn't a comfortable place for him to be."

So Walters fled to San Francisco at the age of 16, never really finding a job or a home, and getting hooked on heroin during his struggle to stay alive.



Ronnie Walters in 1988

Still, he remained an active, vital part of his own community, said Evans, who was impressed with the family Walters built here, including a crowd of regulars at the Wednesday night dinners offered by the Most Holy Redeemer Church in the Castro, the neighborhood where he spent most of his time.

"I've thought and thought about this, and still I cannot fathom Ronnie doing anything that would make someone kill him," said Mack, 46, a Castro resident who declined to give his last name. Mack said that his own battles — with cancer, and the recent death of his son in the World Trade Center attacks — led him to drink a lot at area bars, and he would often run into Walters on the streets on his way home. "He was very docile. He didn't like to fight or anything. And he would give you the shirt off his back," said Mack, noting that Walters's presence at the downtown mall was in itself an odd occurrence.

Police do not have a lot of information about Walters's alleged attacker, although they may have a rough video shot of him exiting the mall. A witness reportedly saw Walters cornered in a restroom stall, according to Evans, and he asked for help. But it would be too late: shortly thereafter, Walters, stabbed in the chest, apparently staggered to the food court area where he collapsed and died around 8 p.m.

"He was very loved at home, and we worried about him a lot," said Evans, who noted that although Walters would call his mother and sister every week or so, his frequent check-ins did not stop his family from worrying about his safety. "This has been a call we thought would come someday. We just never expected it to be murder." ▼

GRAY FAILED US on AIDS POLICY

Gov. Gray Davis recently vetoed a bill supported by numerous medical, AIDS, LGBT, union and business associations that would have allowed adults to purchase up to 30 sterile syringes at pharmacies without a prescription.

Allowing pharmacies to sell syringes has been proven to reduce the spread of HIV and hepatitis-C without increasing drug use, drug injection or crime. This bill would have saved thousands of lives and millions of dollars at no cost to taxpayers.

California is 1 of the last 6 states that still require a prescription in order to purchase a sterile syringe. Laws authorizing syringe sale have been signed by Republican, Independent and Democratic governors nationwide.

But not by Gray Davis.

More than twenty years into the AIDS epidemic, Gov. Davis' lack of compassion and leadership is appalling. The veto of SB1785 (Vasconcellos) was a cruel, irresponsible act, and it must be condemned.

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DAVIS VETO = DEATH



COMMUNITY NEWS

Bagdad Cafe

◀ page 1

ering taking legal action against the San Francisco Police Department.

Silard said his partner had an ongoing struggle with his speed use, had participated in several treatment programs, and at the time of the incident, was on a waiting list for the Acceptance Place treatment facility.

"The compulsion to use is just so overwhelmingly strong for some people," he noted.

Silard speculated that his partner may have instinctively reacted by raising up his arms with the knives after he was confronted by a police officer pointing a gun at him. Silard said that police protocol should be implemented to deal with future incidents that would protect the lives of everyone involved.

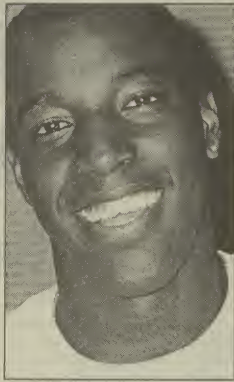
"It's hard to believe that nothing else could have been done," he said.

The entire incident has left Silard and others close to Akbar in a deep state of sadness and shock.

"He was just such an incredibly kind, loving person," he said.

Andrea Shorter, an out lesbian who previously served on the Community College Board and now works at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she, too, knew Akbar and that the police should look into other methods of dealing with disturbances of the sort that occurred outside the Bagdad Cafe.

"He was a really good friend of mine," Shorter said, adding that she had known Akbar for several years. "He was a very bright young man full of life, joy, and love."



Jihad Abdul-Alim Akbar

Shorter said that Akbar was dealing with depression and had turned to recreational drugs, particularly methamphetamine.

"He was really wanting to get in a recovery program," Shorter said.

The B.A.R. spoke with two witnesses just after the shooting. Each had very different accounts of what happened. One said that police had no choice but to shoot Akbar after he lunged at them. The other said that Akbar had the knives tucked in his arms just before the shooting and wasn't threatening anyone.

San Francisco Police Homicide Inspector Tom Walsh told the B.A.R. that the consensus among witnesses is that Akbar lunged at police. Witnesses also said that before Akbar left the Bagdad, he simulated stabbing one of the waiters with the knives while the waiter was pouring coffee for a customer.

Shorter said that the police should look at alternate methods

other than deadly force.

"I hate to think that the tragedy of Jihad — I hate to think that a young, gay, black man on the streets of San Francisco — that he was seen as being evermore threatening. This is the second incident of this sort where the SFPD has gunned down a person of color," Shorter said, referring to an earlier unrelated altercation at the Sony Metreon where a young man allegedly suffering from mental illness was shot and killed by police. "This calls into question all sorts of things."

As a member of the Commission on the Status of Women, Shorter said that she is familiar with protocols for dealing with battered women and that perhaps police should look into other protocols when confronted by a similar situation.

"Are there other methods?" Shorter asked. "We need to make sure police are equipped to use other measures."

Strong said that because media reports said that Akbar was making statements against gays and minorities, and because he had a Muslim name, many people were mistakenly led to believe that Akbar was a Muslim extremist. Strong reiterated that he believes what led to the incident was a downward spiral stemming from Akbar's drug use.

Strong called Akbar a "beautiful, brilliant, and a very promising young man." He said his friend was a University of California, Berkeley graduate, was "extremely masculine," and played football. "He was unlike any other gay man I've ever known. He genuinely loved sports," said Strong.

Strong, along with other friends and family, attended Akbar's funeral service last week

at Mt. Eden Cemetery in Hayward. Akbar was from Oakland. He grew up in the Oakland and Berkeley areas, according to Strong.

"He was loved by many people," the friend said.

Akbar's mother, who lives in Oakland, did not return a call from the B.A.R. seeking comment.

Toxicology tests were done on Akbar's body to look for the presence of drugs. The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office told the B.A.R. that those test results would be back in several weeks.

Strong said that about a year and a half ago, he opted for a "tough love" approach with Akbar. Strong said he was concerned that he was helping to enable Akbar's habit by letting Akbar stay in his apartment in San Francisco when he needed a place to crash while coming down from the drugs he was taking. Although

he didn't see Akbar as often, they still kept in touch.

Strong said that he hopes his friend's death will be a wake-up call for those in the gay community who don't think drug use is a serious problem.

"It's an evil problem in our community," he said. "It's still around."

Akbar is the third son his family has lost. Akbar's older brother was shot to death in Oakland 10 years ago and another brother died from a heart problem, according to Silard.

Akbar's extensive résumé includes a large amount of work for social service and civil rights organizations. Silard said that at the time of his death, Akbar had started to work as a volunteer Pop Warner football coach and was about to begin working with a program to help troubled at-risk kids. ▼

Our Man Friday

◀ page 10

ton, now seen in all the smart places with a sleek new look, say that Chelsea, currently beginning her second year of a two-year graduate program in international relations at Oxford, has decided to follow her parents into a law career — and eventually into politics.

GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon's campaign got a big thumbs-down — from his own party, Representative Thomas M. Davis III (R-Virginia), chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee: "I will just say, I don't think there's a single worse-run race in the country than the governor's race in California on the part of the Republi-

cans."

If you live in Marin County's 1st Supe District, Susan Adams deserves your vote on November 5.

As for my choice for S.F. Superior Court Judge #10 — that, too, is an easy one: Sean F. Connolly.

Providence, Rhode Island (Pop. 173,618) could soon replace Tempe, Arizona as the nation's largest city with an openly gay mayor. David Cicilline, a Democratic state legislator, recently won a hotly contested mayoral primary in that state's largest (and overwhelmingly Democratic) city and he becomes the odds-on favorite to be elected mayor next month.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.



Esther Lee

San Franciscans are United Against Proposition D

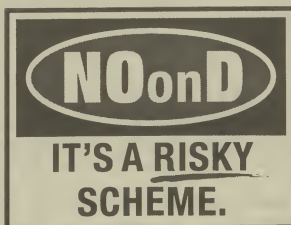


Rich Kowalewski

“We support public power and that's why we are voting NO on Proposition D. Proposition D will turn the City's focus away from needed energy solutions. Once passed, voters will lose all opportunity to steer City energy policy — instead handing over that power to City Hall and a new, unworkable City Commission. For a real energy plan, vote NO on D. ”

— Esther Lee and Rich Kowalewski, Board Members, Alice B. Toklas Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Democratic Club

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CUAV concert fights violence everywhere

by Zak Szymanski

Take a queer nonprofit made up of many staff members known for their own artistic and activist careers, and you're bound to end up with an annual event that stimulates the creative senses while taking a political stand.

Community United Against Violence, the organization dedicated to ending hate crimes and LGBT domestic abuse, will host "And The Movement Continues..." a hip-hop and rock concert and fundraiser this Friday, October 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Mission High School.

The evening features performances by Mario Balcitra, Jen Ro, Connie Champagne, Gustavo Cravioto, and CUAV's own Shawna Virago with her band, The Deadly Nightshade Family. Special appearances will be made by political rap artist Hanifah Walidah; female indie band Chi Chi Palace; and Deborah Iyall, award-winning vocalist from the 1980s modern rock sensation Romeo Void. Emcees include Tamiko Wilson and Fairy Butch.

"Our community is both hungry for and leading efforts for a new peace movement," said Terry Person Harris, CUAV's executive director. "The United State stands on the brink of war with Iraq. Is-

rael is pursuing a hollow unobtainable safety through increased repression of Palestinian people. Federal authorities are cracking down on civil liberties here at home. The face of hate violence is taking on a more personal shape as our community's strength and visibility increases, and domestic violence within our community is still under-addressed.

"Movements arise out of particular historical conditions, and out of ordinary people's unwillingness to let those conditions define who they are or how the world should be. We wholeheartedly invite you to celebrate with us

a movement that has and will endure," Person Harris added.

Friday's event is an all-ages show and is wheelchair accessible. Tickets are \$5 for youth and \$20-\$50 for adults. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Parking is available at Mission High School, at 18th between Dolores and Church streets, for \$5; the event is also accessible via the J-Church Muni, the 16th Street BART station, and the 14, 49, 33, and 22 Muni bus lines.

Tickets are available at CUAV, 160 14th Street, or over the phone. For more information, call (415) 777-5500. ▼

Pulp fiction party for TARC's 12th anniversary

by Zak Szymanski

Rendezvous," based on a 1952 pulp fiction novel of the same name, is the theme of the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center's 12th anniversary event on Monday, October 28.

Held at the Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell Street, from 6-9 p.m., Rendezvous will celebrate "the burlesque and decadent underbelly of city life" through performances by Juanita More, Basil Twist, Veronica Klaus, and others. Guests will also enjoy a light gourmet meal, an open wine and beer bar, and a raffle with prizes such as a New York weekend with tickets to the musi-

cal *Hairspray* and a stay at Ian Schrager's Royalton Hotel. Also at Rendezvous, TARC will honor Les Pappas, the employees and staff of the Tom Waddell Health Clinic, and GATX Capital for their collective support of the Tenderloin community.

Tickets to Rendezvous are \$100 and are available by calling (415) 241-2545, or by visiting www.tarc.org. Proceeds benefit TARC's efforts to support health promotion among the Tenderloin's homeless and marginally housed residents. Founded in 1990, TARC seeks to prevent new HIV infections, and offers services such as long-term and emergency housing and psycho-social support. ▼

Sex toy ban overturned

by Liz Highleyman

A federal judge last week struck down an Alabama law banning the sale of sex toys, ruling that the ban was an unconstitutional violation of the right to privacy.

The sex toy ban, which was originally passed in 1998 as part of a broader anti-obscenity package aimed primarily at nude dancing, prohibited the sale or distribution of "any device designed or marketed as useful primarily for the stimulation of human genital or-

gans." Violators would have been subject to up to a year in jail and a \$10,000 fine. The law had not been enforced while it was under judicial review.

The law was challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union, representing six women who either sell sex toys or claim that they require such aids to achieve sexual satisfaction.

The ruling was issued October 10.

In March 1999, U.S. District Judge Lynwood Smith Jr. ruled that the law was overly broad and

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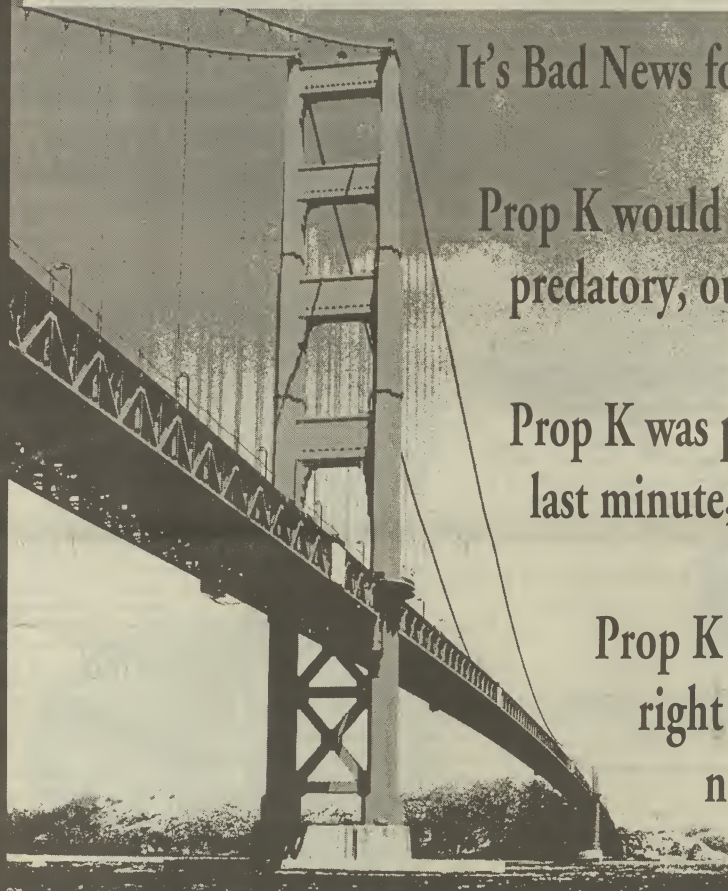
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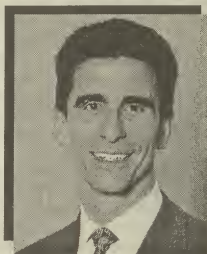


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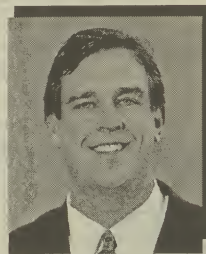
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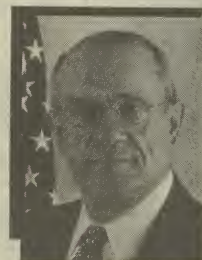
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District 8 race

◀ page 1

the condo-conversion initiative, it could be a setback for Ammiano's hopes to maintain the board presidency next year. If along with Dufty, the more moderate Propositions N and R win, it could push Newsom into officially declaring his bid for mayor.

City Treasurer Susan Leal could also benefit from a Dufty win. Leal, who has endorsed her former aide, has also declared her intention to run for mayor.

"My sense is that the city is moving back to a more moderate perspective and is concentrating a lot on quality of life issues. People are wondering, okay we have advocates for low-cost housing and for the homeless but who are the advocates for the rest of us," said Theresa Sparks, co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, which is supporting Dufty and Newsom (he's running for reelection to the board in District 2), along with Proposition N. "That will carry forward and set up the attitudes for next year's mayor and district attorney's race. I am sure Supervisors Newsom and Ammiano and Treasurer Leal are watching these results very carefully."

Change in the Castro

Shaping the debate and the outcome of the District 8 election is how the Castro, and the district itself, has changed during the last few years. Due to redrawing of the district's boundaries, more homeowners in Glen Park have been added, and the dot-com boom and bust has altered the make-up of residents. Many straight couples have moved into the predom-

inantly gay Castro, while queer residents have found themselves either priced out or evicted from their homes in the neighborhood.

"There is a trend toward what I would call centrist positions in the city. There is a trend in moderate politics in District 8 as well," said Mike Sullivan, who helped form Plan C to give a more centrist voice to the city's political debates. "I am not going to predict any particular candidate's victory right now. But I think there is a trend toward that particular kind of politics and we will have to see what happens in November."

Plan C is itself a reflection of a more traditional middle class mentality that has emerged since

to vote for it because they want to see something done," she said. "I would hope people look at Proposition N and see it is not going to do what it says it will do. People have really strong feelings on that and Gavin took advantage of that."

As for who will win in District 8, Walker said Hansen will be able to capitalize on her strong support during her race against Leno to come out victorious in November.

"Ultimately District 8 strongly supported Eileen in the last supervisorial election. I am sure that will continue and her support will grow in this one," said Walker. "I think she will be a very strong voice for District 8 and the LGBT community."

"Ultimately District 8 strongly supported Eileen in the last supervisorial election. I am sure that will continue and her support will grow in this one. I think she will be a very strong voice for District 8 and the LGBT community." - Debra Walker

the political heyday of Harvey Milk. The group has endorsed both Dufty and Newsom, along with Propositions N and R.

"I think Bevan really cares about people and he cares about the neighborhood. We think he's taken some sensible positions on the issues; Care Not Cash is a good example of that," said Sullivan. "We think that is part of a smart and compassionate solution to the homeless problem. Proposition R, the HOPE initiative, is another example. Those are a couple of issues where you can really distinguish Bevan from other leading candidates."

Along with Plan C members, many Castro residents are voicing more moderate positions. Many credit this change in tolerance over the last several years to the worsening conditions of the city's streets.

"What has changed is people feel the policies of the last two years have not been successful," said Gustavo Serina, president of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, whose members voted to endorse both Propositions N and R. "The expression 'curb-side issues' really makes a difference to people. If you step out of your house and have to step over somebody or step over garbage, that gets to people on a day to day basis. And it should - that's unacceptable."

View from the left

No matter where one stands on how to approach the city's homeless problem, some political insiders do not agree it will automatically decide how voters choose candidates.

"People may vote for issues and a particular candidate in a way we would never have thought. A lot of people are passionate on R and N and a lot of people are in the middle on it," said Debra Walker, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, which has endorsed Hansen and is opposed to both Propositions N and R.

The more progressive of the two gay political groups, the Milk Club has also come out in favor of Newsom's District 2 opponent Lynne Newhouse Segal. Walker said she expects that voters will vote for both Newsom's and Ammiano's homelessness measures.

"People are frustrated enough in this city that they are just going

Yet Dufty has zeroed in on voter's frustrations and throughout his campaign has stressed in his speeches and literature that he will focus on problems, big and small, that affect neighborhood quality of life. While he has been attacked by his opponents for being a former aide to Mayor Brown, Dufty maintains during his five and a half years in City Hall he answered to residents of the city.

"I automatically think I was working for the people of San Francisco because anyone could bring me their problem. My work wasn't given to me by the mayor, it was brought to me by the people and whatever problem they were experiencing in their neighborhood," said Dufty. "I think I have described myself as a neighborhood services guy who understands how to deliver city services and respond to problems big and small."

Critics of Dufty like to point to his working for The Robert Group and his lobbying on behalf of Walgreens to take over a former single-screen theatre in the Marina to attack his record of supporting neighborhood issues. But Dufty counters that the experience of working with merchants and neighbors to discuss their concerns about the store helped him decide to run for elective office.

"I woke up one morning and thought about the fact I was working on the opening of several more Walgreens. Great stores though they may be, it was not my mission in life and that is when I decided to leave my position and become a candidate for the board," said Dufty. "For me, working for [the theatre owner's] isn't anything I am ashamed of. It helped guide me to what I wanted to do with my life."

Ever since he entered the race, Dufty has not just campaigned for office. He has turned his campaign headquarters into a place for residents to turn to for help with neighborhood issues.

He has used his connections in city government to address Castro merchants' complaints about garbage and trash issues, and has organized street sweeps in various neighborhoods.

"My experience with him is he is very focused on the neighborhoods. He was always extremely responsive when working in the

page 26 ▶

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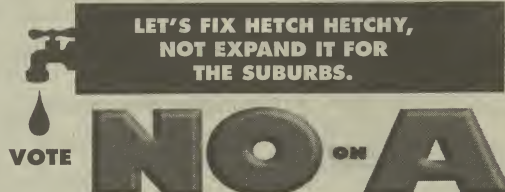
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Sierra Club

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A free-for-all in Dist. 8

compiled by
Matthew S. Bajko

The Bay Area Reporter asked all six candidates in the District 8 race to respond to a number of questions, ranging from how they would deal with the city's homeless and housing issues to what their stands are on a number of issues relevant to the GLBT community.

All of the candidates, except for Starchild, answered our questions, and all agreed homelessness is the most pressing issue facing the district. The following is how each of the candidates responded to our questions.

Bevan Dufty



Jane Philomen Cleland

Bevan Dufty, an openly gay former aide to Mayor Brown, said he supports Proposition N, Care Not Cash, calling

it an "essential first step to reduce street-based homelessness." He has not taken a position on Proposition O, Exits from Homelessness.

If elected, and if Proposition N passes, Dufty said he will fight to see that the money is used to provide people with a city master-leased hotel room and services or treatment. He also would like to see the city adopt a model of New York City's Midtown Community Court, which blends services with personal accountability, for the mid-Market area.

"One of the reasons I want to be District 8 supervisor is that I want to change our city's approach to homelessness," said Dufty. "Care Not Cash is simply the first step in reforming our homeless services and restoring public confidence that our city has the ability to address homelessness humanely and effectively without hundreds of individuals living on our streets."

A supporter of Proposition B, the affordable housing bond, Dufty also supports Proposition R, the HOPE initiative, which he said will increase opportunities for homeownership in the city.

"I believe the HOPE initiative is a reasonable solution to the lack of opportunities for many San Francisco residents who wish to secure their futures by owning their home," he said.

In regard to addressing the needs of queer youth, Dufty said he wants to find a permanent home for Ark House, the transitional queer youth shelter, open dialogue between youth and adults in the district, and provide more positive programming and

safe spaces for queer youth.

"The Castro does not have enough positive outlets that are appropriate for LGBT youth and we need to work cooperatively with youth agencies, neighbors, and merchants so that these efforts are neighborhood-friendly," he said.

To help combat the rising rates of HIV infection rates, Dufty proposed convening an AIDS prevention summit to reinvent prevention for gay men, and he would advocate for a holistic approach to HIV prevention.

If he is elected, Dufty said voters should "never hesitate to stop me on the street, at the gym, at a club, or in a restaurant to talk with me. I am interested in your thoughts and concerns for our community. And your experiences and insight will help me to be a better representative."

James Green



Jane Philomen Cleland

James Green, a city firefighter and paramedic, is the only straight candidate on the ballot. He is also a supporter of Care

Not Cash, but does not support the competing Proposition O.

If elected, Green said he would advocate for the city to preserve existing rentals in SRO hotels and use fees from developers and new businesses to create affordable housing through partnerships with nonprofits that renovate older buildings or construct new high-density housing.

Green also would like for the city to establish both a short-term detox facility for those people on the streets with alcohol or drug addictions, and he proposes creating a citywide 24-hour mental health drop-in center for those people afflicted with psychiatric problems.

He stated that "if Supervisor Ammiano were sincere he would have addressed the homeless issue long ago and not waited till a potential mayoral rival introduced his legislation."

In order to improve the city's housing supply, Green proposed building taller, higher density housing along transit corridors and to build more family-friendly apartments instead of live-work lofts. He also supports the HOPE initiative and supports Proposition B.

In regard to the future home of the queer youth shelter, Green suggested finding a facility along Market Street closer to the new LGBT Community Center and said he would prefer seeing a "long-term residential facility because it will be easier to get neighborhood support."

Eileen Hansen



Jane Philomen Cleland

Out lesbian Eileen Hansen, a nonprofit consultant and AIDS policy expert, is the only candidate in the race in support of Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano's Proposition O, Exits from Homelessness, which she said will require the city to provide actual housing and services necessary to move individuals out of homelessness. She opposes Proposition N, which she believes will potentially create

more homelessness.

"It is a politically motivated, quick-fix plan that will fail," said Hansen. "I will not be content to adopt Band-Aid or topical solutions that only give the illusion of effective action."

Instead, she proposes to provide mental health, substance abuse, and job training programs, improving emergency shelters and developing supportive and transitional housing.

"My alternative is to expand, fund, and finally implement the Continuum of Care Plan, a plan never instituted that was developed by over 200 community experts, and that addresses the root causes of homelessness," said Hansen. "It is clear that San Francisco wants elected officials to soundly address this issue and for far too long, the current administration has abdicated this responsibility."

A strong advocate for long-range budgeting and planning issues, Hansen said the city must develop a set of priorities and then develop plans for funding those priorities instead of "lurching from year-to-year and budget crisis to budget crisis."

She opposes the HOPE measure, and said it has the potential to remove affordable housing from the city's rental stock.

"As with Care Not Cash, it is a flawed initiative that holds out more promise than it can deliver," she said. "I support increased home ownership opportunity, but not when it is accomplished for a very few and on the backs of tenants, rent control and existing rental stock."

She stated she supports the queer youth shelter and believes such programs need to be expanded. And as for the city's HIV prevention programs, she said more messages are needed that are community-based, targeted, and hard-hitting.

"Attention to those who are homeless, needle-using, immigrant, young, women, and people of color is critical," stated Hansen. "The city must take a strong position in support of the work of HIV/AIDS nonprofits, fully fund appropriate prevention messages and aggressively respond to inappropriate criticism by those at the local and federal levels who would keep us from providing the direct prevention education necessary to fight this disease."

In her eyes, what is lacking on the board is someone who can be a coalition builder. Hansen said if elected she could provide such leadership to the board.

"I have been effective at building consensus and creating numerous coalitions in a wide variety of community settings," said Hansen. "I believe these qualities are needed on the Board of Supervisors and I will work to bring the board together toward creative solutions across districts and political positions."

Shawn O'Hearn



Rick Gerhart

Shawn O'Hearn, an openly gay administrator at City College, stated that if elected to the board he would work to improve the quality of life in the district. He said Proposition O, Exits from Homelessness, is a "bullshit proposal" and said he also supports

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District 6 candidates take on Chris Daly

compiled by Zak Szymanski

San Francisco's District 6 includes South of Market, the Tenderloin, South Beach, and Treasure Island. Eight candidates are challenging incumbent Supervisor Chris Daly. Six of those returned questionnaires from the Bay Area Reporter.

Roger Gordon



Rick Gerhardt

District 6 includes many gay and HIV issues, and is built on his belief of equality for everybody.

"I enjoy the protective envelope of freedom we enjoy in San Francisco and will do anything to prevent its collapse," Gordon stated in his answers to the B.A.R. candidate survey. "I would see that envelope pushed constantly outward. I see beauty in our differences and resent those who seek to turn us against each other or to lead by fear. My professional career and history of community activism speak to my commitment to equality and to protecting others."

Gordon, 35, is a six-month resident of the Tenderloin, where he worked for more than two years as executive director of Urban Solutions, a neighborhood economic development organization. Describing himself as "a true progressive" Democrat, he actually finds himself at odds with other similarly-defined politicians, on issues such as Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Proposition N, or Care Not Cash, for instance.

"I support Proposition N because it paves the way for necessary innovations such as coordinated service delivery, money management, and accountability that so-called progressives have thus far resisted," Gordon stated.

Like many Proposition N supporters, he opposes Proposition O, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano's legislation touted as both separate from and complimentary to Newsom's Proposition N.

"Proposition O appears to be a last-minute political reaction to Care Not Cash that legislates complicated programs into existence without sufficient development or funding. It is an attempt by those currently in charge of the homeless policy to retain control and thus undermines the likelihood for real long-term reform," said Gordon.

Coming from District 6, he sees the two most pressing issues as affordable housing and homelessness, and believes one cannot be addressed without the other.

"Homelessness must be addressed by providing affordable housing tied to services," said Gordon. "I support the affordable housing bond and also have worked to promote new supportive housing models such as master leasing."

His own background, he said, will be an asset to implementing creative solutions to these crises.

"Funding these solutions will require a significant tax base and

therefore an understanding of economic development. I have 17 years of small business and social services experience, the last two of which have been spent on Sixth Street. I also understand the urban planning issues that must be addressed in the context of housing, social services, and economic development."

Because homelessness is a city-wide problem, and affects many different populations, Gordon said he would also support and "actively promote efforts to provide services such as education, counseling, shelter, and healthcare to queer youth, because it's better for all those concerned to provide proactive services rather than those based on acute care, criminal justice, and temporary assistance models." Gordon also supports the transitional shelter program and believes it should be expanded.

Keeping a citywide focus while representing his district should come naturally he said, particularly since the issues of District 6 are of concern to all the districts.

"Every major issue facing the city will come through the heart of District 6 in the next five years: homelessness, housing, economic development, social services, transportation, etc.," said Gordon. "District 6 also traverses the full social and economic breadth of the city. The challenge for the next supervisor is to win for District 6 a greater share of the city's resources to allow it to cope with a greater share of its problems."

One such issue of concern is the city's tourism industry, and with District 6's reach down Market Street, Gordon believes alleviating the conditions that suppress tourism should help to encourage more travel to the area. Attracting quality businesses, and supporting affordable housing that allows the employees of these businesses to remain in the city, is one angle he will try.

Affordable housing, he said, can come in many forms, but that does not include Supervisor Tony Hall's Proposition R.

"I believe it to be poorly thought out and reckless in its disregard for the likely effects on low income individuals," said Gordon, who is not necessarily opposed to the idea of joint building ownership.

As for his additional LGBT and HIV related work, he points to his production of a concert last year to publicize *Hatred in the Hallways*, a report that documented LGBTQ abuse against high school students. And he promises to "work more closely with schools, with youth, and with ethnic and language minorities" to address HIV prevention gaps. Along the same lines, he supports Proposition Q to hold nonprofits accountable for their funding but also because it "reiterates existing law and takes pressure off nonprofits to be political or support politicians."

If elected, Gordon said, he plans to practice by his own philosophy: that the role of government is "to ensure that all have equal access to opportunities to improve their lives and live them productively."

"I do not have much patience," he said, "with those who put more emphasis on rhetoric than results and who place their own ideologies over the good of the people."

Rob Power



Rick Gerhardt

Housing and the depressed economy, according to Rob Power, are the two most pressing issues in District 6. And as the

district's only Libertarian candidate, Power, 26, has some different ideas than most of his opponents when it comes to tackling problems.

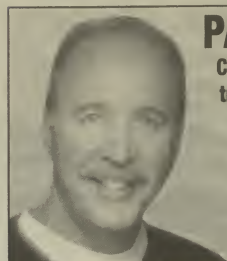
"Housing and the depressed economy are both big problems, and they both have the same root cause—a city bureaucracy that has literally doubled in size, expense, complexity, and intrusiveness in less than a decade," Power stated in response to the B.A.R. candidate survey. "As a Libertarian, I am the only candidate in my district who promises to reduce the scope of city government, thereby opening up the housing market and removing the existing barriers to new economic investment."

As an advocate of less government, one might expect Power to support Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Proposition N, or Care Not Cash, which would reduce government payments to the homeless. But Power is opposed to the measure, stating, "Though I firmly believe that the current system

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District 6

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must be removed, Proposition N, as written, will be open to all the same corruption and fraud as the general assistance cash payments. A much better solution would be to simply reduce the cash payments at a rate of 20 percent per year, over the next five years, giving private charities time to ramp up services to those who were using the money responsibly, while at the same time serving notice to those abusing the system that it's time to the city."

Power also opposes Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano's Proposition O, because "This thing looks like something Ammiano wrote on the back of a cocktail napkin the night before the ballot measures were due."

And while Power is openly gay, his Libertarian approach to social services follows the same small-government platform: he prefers that private charities foot the bill and responsibility for them, although he believes that if anyone should get city funding, queer youth, the elderly, and the disabled, should be among those assisted.

"The best thing that the Health Department could do for persons with HIV and AIDS is get out of the way and let those of us in the community help our neighbors," said Power. "More often than not, the bureaucracy just eats up valuable resources, keeping those community contributions out of the hands of those who need it most."

And as for the queer youth transitional housing shelter, he worries about neighbors' con-

cerns, and believes "these kids need more structure than the current facility affords."

"I personally would not hesitate," he continued, "to contribute financially to a more permanent facility located in a neighborhood with fewer objections from neighbors, perhaps close to the LGBT Community Center."

Power does support both Proposition R – the Home Ownership Program for Everyone – and Proposition Q – the nonprofit accountability measure – again, because of their efforts to remove politics from what he believes should be a free market.

And as for his own efforts to combat homophobia, he points to an extensive history in his home state of Tennessee: he served as president of his college's LGBT organization, organized protests against the Boy Scouts, and publicly debated religious fundamentalists. In San Francisco, he is the chair of Outright Libertarians, organized the Libertarian Party's participation in the Pride Parade, and is a member of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates.

If there is one message he wants to deliver to the LGBT community, it is this: "Don't believe the big lie, folks. Expanding the government at the expense of individual liberty is not the path to LGBT equality. Not so long ago, the force of government was used to oppress us. Then, the pendulum swung in our favor, resulting in great gains in politics, business, and the media. So right now a big powerful government that likes us may seem like a good idea. But consider what will happen if the government stops liking us and we've made it too big and powerful for us to defend ourselves."

"Consider the Libertarian solution," summarized Power, "LGBT equality while keeping our individual liberties intact."

Garrett Jenkins



Don't try to put Garrett Jenkins into a box. The 39-year-old candidate for District 6 supervisor spent 14 years as a Republican, has been a Democrat since 1996, and these days finds himself moving more toward the center. But he is "prepared to abandon all political parties to do what is right by the people," he said.

The openly bisexual Jenkins likes to paint himself as a mixture of activist/businessman, but on many issues, according to his responses to the B.A.R. candidate survey, his positions are firm.

Jenkins, a seven-year resident of the Tenderloin and disabled Navy veteran, supports two of the most controversial ballot measures.

He supports Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Proposition N, he said, because, "The current way San Francisco supports the homeless population is not compassionate, does not provide them with the means to survive an entire month, and our elected leadership has been ineffective in reducing the number of homeless people living in our streets."

And Supervisor Tony Hall's Proposition R, said Jenkins, will create more homeowners which will improve neighborhoods.

One thing neither measure does, however, is address what Jenkins considers crucial, particularly for District 6, which struggles with homelessness and housing as its most pressing issues, according to Jenkins.

"We need to build housing for

low to moderate income people wherever we can. I believe that newer developing neighborhoods and communities such as Mission Bay, South Beach, and Treasure Island should expect to take the bulk of new dense housing. Established neighborhoods, most especially those around transit corridors, need to accept more infill and increased height and bulk limits for housing."

Jenkins also wants to "review and introduce rent control laws that will protect seniors, disabled persons, and people of low income, but which denies opportunities for affluent people to take advantage of rent control."

To boost tourism, Jenkins proposes spending dollars to advertise in traditional venues, and addressing the public safety concerns that discourage visitors.

Along those lines, Jenkins said, he sees the job as supervisor to not only look out for his district, but for the city as a whole.

"If we don't hang together, we shall all hang separately," he said. "I intend to open my door at least once a month after working hours or on weekends to allow for the public to come and share their concerns with me and work to resolve issues through networking and discussion."

And as for LGBT and HIV services, Jenkins supports more funding for queer youth programs – including the transitional housing project – and more money toward prevention education, particularly to African American communities.

If there is one message Jenkins hopes the LGBT community knows about him, it's that he is "committed to public service, and will honor their support by ensuring that members of the LGBT community continue to be represented in San Francisco government and included in all political processes. I will work diligently to ensure that issues that threaten our community are dealt with promptly."

Arthur Jackson



Building coalitions would probably be the theme of Arthur Jackson's campaign for District 6 supervisor.

The founder of the 32-year-old Jackson Personnel, which has put thousands of people to work, Jackson is also a public health advocate who believes in the partnerships of different forces to unite behind common goals. The Board of Supervisors, for instance, should partner with the hospitality industry "to find new and exciting ideas to use in bringing in more tourists and new businesses," Jackson stated in the recent B.A.R. candidate survey. As supervisor, Jackson would also "immediately establish a rapport and a consensus building effort with the other supervisors. Each district is part of a puzzle of the whole city and must work in cooperation with the whole city."

This view would serve him well, he believes, when addressing what he sees as the two most pressing issues facing his district: People living in the streets, and the need for clean streets and public safety.

Jackson supports Proposition N because, "I have the health care background to implement the necessary care part of this proposition." He also supports Proposition R, although he worries about how its implementation will affect

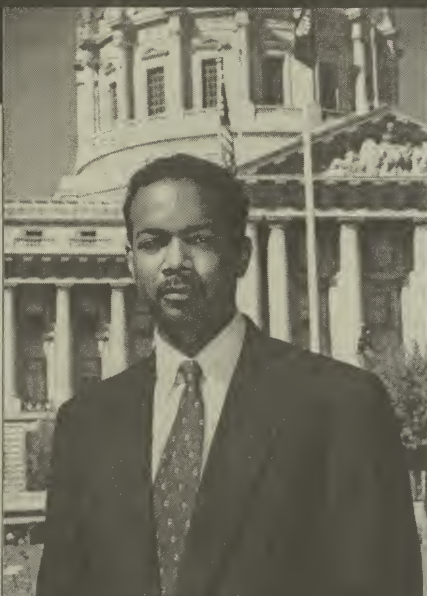
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"District 6 should be more than a political playground for those with more money than experience or ideas."

"District 6 is the historic heart of San Francisco's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community."

LGBT survival issues of healthcare, inadequate housing, law enforcement sensitivity training, job discrimination, lack of substance abuse treatment and domestic violence persist in District 6 more than in any other part of San Francisco.

My professional experience as an advocate and organizer will translate into effective action on these issues, to preserve our rights and improve our quality of life."



ROGER GORDON

SUPERVISOR 6

ABOUT ROGER GORDON

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experience
Urban Solutions,
Executive Director
SOMA Project Area
Committee

SPUR Board Member

Big Brothers/Big Sisters
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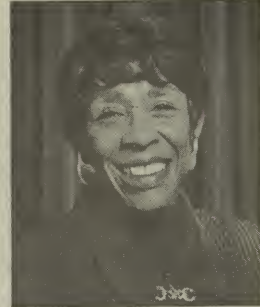
District 6 Supervisor

**Burke Strunsky***He has got what it takes!*

Board of Equalization

**Carole Migden***Local girl makes great!*

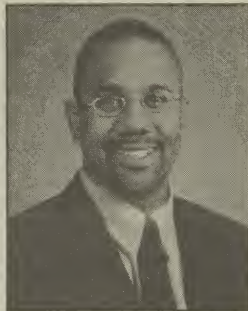
Assessor-Recorder

**Doris Ward***Doing a great job!*

Superior Court

**Sean Connolly***Highly rated, well qualified.*

College Board

**Johnnie Carter***Doing great things!*

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Board of Equalization

Carole Migden (local girl makes great)

State Assembly

Mark Leno

Assessor Recorder

Doris Ward (doing a great job)

Supervisor District 6

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Superior Court

Sean Connolly (most qualified)

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Johnnie Carter, Anita Grier, Lawrence Wong

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STATE PROPOSITIONS**Proposition 46** Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Bonds Act**YES YES YES****Proposition 47** Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bonds**YES****Proposition 48** Court Consolidation**YES****Proposition 49** After School State Funds**YES****Proposition 50** Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water, and Coastal Wetlands, Purchase & Protection Bonds**YES YES YES****Proposition 51** Transportation allocation of Sales and Use Taxes**YES****SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS****Prop A** - We lose local control of water supply and our water rates could triple**NO****Prop B** - Affordable Housing Bonds**YES YES YES****Prop C** - Bonds for War Memorial**NO****Prop D** - People are homeless, streets are dirty, General Hospital must be rebuilt and they want to buy PG&E**NO NO NO****Prop E** - Stepchild of A & D:**NO****Prop F** - Entertainment Commission Appointments**YES****Prop G** - Assistance to Elections Department**YES****Prop H** - Retirement Benefits for Public Safety Workers**YES YES YES****Prop I** - Paid Parental Leave**YES****Prop J** - Civil Service for Supervisors Salary**YES****Prop K** - Removes Affirmative Action from Public Notice contracts**NO NO NO****Prop L** - 100% increase Property Transfer Tax**NO****Prop M** - Economic Development Plan**YES****Prop N** - The system is broken, let's fix it**YES YES****Prop O** - This could have been done at the Board of Supervisors**NO****Prop P** - Public Utilities Commission Oversight Committee**YES****Prop Q** - Prohibition of the Use of City Funds for Political Purposes**YES****Prop R** - Home Ownership Program**YES****Prop S** - City Provision of Medical Marijuana**YES****BB** Bart Improvement Bonds**YES YES YES**

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District 4 is wide open

compiled by Cynthia Laird

District 4 encompasses the Outer Sunset and Parkside. It is currently represented on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors by Leland Yee, who is expected to win the 12th Assembly District seat next month. Eight candidates are vying for the open seat; three of them returned the Bay Area Reporter's questionnaire.

Barry Hermanson



Green Party member Barry Hermanson said he is running for the District 4 seat and if elected, will advocate for services in the district that are equal to the best offered elsewhere in the city. He sees the most pressing issues facing the district as health care and transportation.

Regarding transportation, Hermanson pointed out that 19th Avenue — "one of the most heavily traveled roads in the city" — borders the district. "Sunset Boulevard is also a major north-south transportation corridor. Noise and pollution have a serious impact on the surrounding neighborhoods."

The candidate opposes Proposition N, Care Not Cash. "It is a misleading 'simple' solution to a complex problem," he said.

On the other hand, Hermanson supports Proposition O, Exits from Homelessness.

Regarding the city providing services to queer youth, Hermanson, a longtime member of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, noted that he supported the creation of the LGBT youth shelter in the Castro and favors expansion of the program.

In terms of affordable housing, Hermanson said he supports

Proposition B, an affordable housing bond on the November 5 ballot. He opposes Proposition R, the Home Ownership Program for Everyone.

"HOPE does nothing to encourage greater production of housing stock, it only ravages the existing rental stock. With a smaller number of available rental units, rents will rise," he said.

Asked what he has done to combat homophobia and transphobia in the city, Hermanson pointed to his work with MUMC. "I have worked to ensure that gay and straight merchants and customers are treated with absolute equality," he said.

Asked what one thing he would like the LGBT community to know about him, Hermanson said, "For the past 12 years I have been closely involved in the activities of the Castro District, working through my participation in MUMC with nonprofits in the Castro to reach out to the merchant community. I have participated in meetings for the development of services specific to the LGBT community; for example, working with the Stop AIDS Project on a condom distribution program."

Andrew Lee



Democrat Andrew Lee said he is running in part to make sure government is more responsive not only to residents of the Sunset, but to every San Franciscan. He has a plan whereby city residents with complaints or problems could connect to a well-trained customer service representative who will make sure all requests are handled in a timely fashion by calling 311.

Lee said he supports Proposition N, Care Not Cash. "We cur-

rently give an inadequate amount of cash to live on and an inadequate amount of services. We need to focus all our resources on real care and Proposition N is a step in that direction."

The candidate opposes Proposition O. "We already spend over \$100 million on the homeless and Supervisor Ammann would like to add \$24 million more to a system that is not addressing the real problems — such as care — and giving too much cash directly to the homeless."

Lee supports expanded services to the city's queer youth.

Regarding tourism, Lee said he would work to relieve the stigma associated around the homeless crisis that drives visitors from the city.

In terms of housing issues, Lee supports Proposition R, the HOPE initiative. "San Francisco will only remain a truly diverse city if we have affordable housing options and high paying jobs. I will work to make sure that every community can afford to live in San Francisco and that our city continues to attract industries that pay decent wages," he said.

In response to the question about what he has done to combat homophobia or transphobia, Lee said, "I have spent my entire life embracing the diversity of San Francisco and will continue to embrace our myriad cultures and lifestyles as a supervisor."

Joel Ventresca

A self-described fiscally re-



sponsible, progressive Democrat, Joel Ventresca is running for supervisor and said that the deteriorating infrastructure and increasing

tax burden are the two most pressing issues facing the district. If elected, he would work to improve public protection, education, transit, park, and library systems in the neighborhood.

Ventresca opposes Proposition N, saying the measure could increase the number of homeless on the streets. He supports the competing Proposition O. He also opposes Proposition R, the condo conversion initiative.

He supports services for queer youth and said he would support and fund appropriate HIV prevention education programs.

In terms of affordable housing, Ventresca said he favors strengthening tenants' rights, increasing the supply of housing for low, moderate, and middle income households, and adopting a tax on vacant buildings to encourage owners to use them for economic activity or housing.

"As an award-winning administrator with 18 years of local government experience, and as a neighborhood leader with 30 years of civic involvement, I have the record, credibility, and know-how to move the Sunset-Parkside and city forward," he stated. ▽

Daly delivers
for District 6

by Zak Szymanski

In the past two years, Supervisor Chris Daly has sponsored affordable housing bonds and worked with other supervisors on implementing affordable housing policy; prepared supplemental appropriations to expand senior services by \$3 million; pushed the envelope on district issues like the rebuilding of Betsy Carmichael Elementary School; closed some key loopholes in rental laws, including instituting a ban on eviction threats as way for landlords to bypass the Ellis Act restrictions; helped AIDS service providers to buy some time after the Ryan White cuts came down; fought to save nursing and laundry worker positions at Laguna Honda Hospital; and allocated millions of dollars for District 6 residents in human services.

"My office has been very busy," Daly told the Bay Area Reporter, "much to my detractors' chagrin."

Daly was referring to his several opponents and their supporters in the upcoming District 6 supervisor race that have singled him out as ineffective based on a few well-known outbursts and his relentless defense of marginalized communities.

To those who take issue with his unconventional style, Daly offers a quote from John F. Kennedy to summarize his anger: "The thing that surprised me the most was that things were as bad as people had been saying they were."

Politics is as bad and corrupt as



Americans think it is, said Daly, and he is surprised

"how infrequently people get pissed off about the way things are, because the way things are is unacceptable."

"I've expressed in a passionate way dissatisfaction maybe two or three times in the last two years, yet almost every day I see something that I think one can justifiably get angry at."

Daly, representing one of the poorest districts in San Francisco, also brings "a sense of urgency to the table that is the urgency of the district."

And while he believes homelessness and housing, as well as the politics of poverty, are the most pressing issues facing District 6, he opposes both Proposition N and Proposition R as measures that will further harm the poorest city residents.

"I have a slightly different take than some of the opponents to N," said Daly, who detailed his work with Supervisor Gavin Newsom on a homeless plan that was supposed to be based on sound policy recommendations from an audit Newsom himself requested. The audit, said Daly, found that the biggest obstacle to homeless service delivery was an inability to follow through with existing homeless plans. But by that point, Daly said, Newsom himself had

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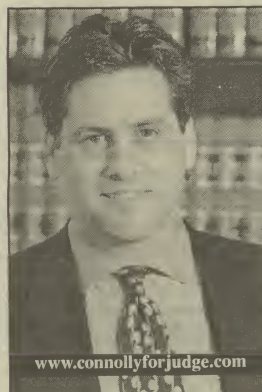
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Filed for by Sean F. Connolly for Superior Court Committee 7/12/02/188

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dist. 2 incumbent speaks

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Supervisor Gavin Newsom is seeking re-election in District 2, which includes the Marina and Pacific Heights. Three candidates are running against him; Newsom was the only one to return the Bay Area Reporter's questionnaire.

Newsom is the architect of Proposition N, for which he sponsored a successful petition drive to place it on the ballot. He said that Care Not Cash will reduce cash payments while guaranteeing basic necessities such as shelter, food,



Jane Rhinman/Cleland

and medical services. Newsom opposes the competing Proposition O.

Regarding services for queer youth, Newsom sup-

ports the transitional shelter program in the Castro and believes the program should be expanded.

Asked what he has done to combat homophobia and transphobia, Newsom said that he has driven and supported laws and

policies beneficial to the LGBT community. He regularly hires LGBT people both in his private businesses and at City Hall, and has long supported LGBT and AIDS charitable events.

Newsom said that he is a Democrat and that if re-elected, he will try to do what's best for San Francisco. "I insist on hearing all sides of a debate before making decisions."

What's the one thing Newsom wants the LGBT community to know about him? "My door has been and will always remain open to this community." ▼

District 6

◀ page 20

seniors. He does not support Proposition O – Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano's Exits from Homelessness, but does support Proposition Q to make nonprofits accountable.

The self-described liberal Democrat, who declined to state his sexual orientation, has an impressive list of LGBT and HIV related accomplishments, including "aggressively pursuing funding for HIV prevention and education" as a health commissioner. Jackson also supports more funding for queer youth programs, and he touts his staffing firm as an example of how he has combated homophobia – by opening his doors to everyone in need of employment.

If there is one thing Jackson wants the LGBT community to know about him, it is that he worked tirelessly as president of the San Francisco Health Commission during the AIDS crisis.

His candidacy and work as supervisor will be based, he said, on his "politics of inclusion."

Michael Sweet



Rick Gerhardt

"When a straight person and a leader in his community stands up publicly and participates in LGBT causes, it sends a

strong message against homophobia and transphobia," stated Michael Sweet in the recent B.A.R. candidate survey.

Sweet, 33, is a heterosexual corporate lawyer running for supervisor in District 6. He is also a member of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, a supporter of the gay organization at his synagogue, and a Project Open Hand volunteer. He said his goals as supervisor include increasing budget allocations for HIV prevention, and bringing in nonprofit groups to work with the Department of Public Health on prevention efforts. He also supports queer youth programs, including a transitional housing shelter.

But Sweet's concerns aren't limited to gay-specific causes by any means. He sees the district's most pressing issues as neighborhood safety and homelessness, and to solve these problems, he wants more police patrols, limits on liquor licenses, and police substations in the district. He also supports Supervisor Gavin Newsom's Proposition N and wants to expand affordable housing opportunities throughout the city.

"I believe Care Not Cash will direct more funds to critical services such as drug treatment, shel-

ter, job training, and mental health services," said Sweet, who is also supporting Supervisor Tony Hall's Proposition R.

"I do support the HOPE initiative. Not only will it increase opportunities for home ownership, but the city analyst estimates that eventually the city will see over \$14 million per year in added property tax revenue as a result."

He will also vote in favor of Proposition Q – nonprofit accountability – and against Proposition O – Exits from Homelessness – which he believes "ignores important aspects of moving people from homelessness."

Sweet is a self-described lifelong liberal Democrat, and proud of it.

"I believe that government has a significant role to play in quality of life issues, and that the role of government is to protect individual choices and freedoms," he summarized.

The one thing he hopes the LGBT community knows about him is that "I'm running for supervisor because there are significant problems that can, in fact, be fixed in our district if we had a representative willing to work with other supervisors, and bring more voices to the table."

Burke Strunsky



Rick Gerhardt

Ask Burke Strunsky a question, and he'll deliver not only answers, but figures and details to back them

up. That's apparent, based on his responses to the B.A.R. candidate survey, which emphasized a need to revamp city homeless services while preserving opportunities for people with lower incomes.

A supporter of Proposition N, Strunsky, 32, wants to institute a debit card system in conjunction with welfare payments so that money cannot be used for non-essential items. An assistant district attorney, he also wants to establish a separate "Quality of Life" court to deal with infractions in a way that avoids the "criminalization of the homeless."

"Proposition N is by no means an elixir for the city's homeless crisis. It's just a good first step," said Strunsky. "More importantly, we need to reform the oversight of dollars designated for homelessness. The city estimates that San Francisco spends more than \$200 million on costs for homelessness, but it is unable to ascertain where and how the nonprofit organizations are using these resources. We need more accountability, we have a right to expect results for our tax dollars."

Not surprisingly, Strunsky supports the nonprofit accountability measure Proposition Q, and opposes Ammiano's Proposition O. But he also opposes Proposition R – or HOPE – because of its effect on tenants and rent control.

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TG teen murder

◀ page 1

pink," Valenzuela said.

Some of that pink hair was reportedly found by police at the scene of the late night party – and Araujo's murder – a house a few blocks from the Newark police station. Police said Araujo was beaten in the bathroom of the house, dragged to the garage, and then strangled to death. They said the killers then drove the body to a remote area in the Sierra, near Silver Lake Campground in El Dorado County, and buried it.

Police have three suspects in custody, Michael Magidson, 22, of Fremont, and Jaron Chase Nabors, 19, and Jose Merel, 24, of Newark. At press time police said they were looking for a fourth suspect, whom they know only as "Jason."

Police said that one or several of the defendants had sex with Araujo at or before the party and that they killed him when they discovered that he wasn't a biological girl.

In a statement to police, Brian Seabrandts, who knows some of the people who attended the party, said he had been told "about three or four guys who were with some chick, banging the

chick, found out it wasn't a chick, beat the hell out of it, killed it, and buried it in South Lake Tahoe."

According to police reports, Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, said her son was going to attend the party, which was at Merel's house, to "kick it and smoke some blunt." She also told the police that Araujo and a friend, Daisy Bernal, had smoked crystal methamphetamine earlier in the afternoon, a fact that Valenzuela confirmed to police.

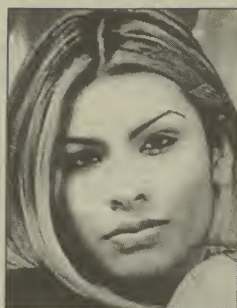
According to media reports, Guerrero said that Araujo's headstone will say "Gwen."

"This kid was a great kid, and he suffered so much. He's my Gwen, and he's beautiful," Guerrero told the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Valenzuela said anyone at the party could have stopped the killing. "They only have three in custody. People heard his screams for help, and no one did anything. There were a lot of people who could have helped him," said Valenzuela.

Police agree that there were others directly involved in the killing. "There were kids flowing in and flowing out" of the party according to Newark Police Lieutenant Tom Milner.

But transgender rights advocates and friends say that the indictment should be of the whole



Murder victim "Gwen" Araujo

community for the intolerance in the small East Bay city where Araujo lived.

"The problem was the community," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition.

"The most critical issue for transgendered teens is that there is no real role model they can look to. They're just discovering their bodies. All kids go through this peer phase where they are trying to express their individuality. For straight students there are a variety of role models. For gay and lesbian students, it's a much smaller group. For transgendered

students, there's virtually nothing," she said.

Valenzuela confirmed that there was no support for Araujo. "He was the only really out gay person I know," said Valenzuela. "A lot of people here are very closed-minded. Lots of people here are Hispanic, 'macho,' you know. They'd never come out," she said.

Araujo's teachers confirm that s/he struggled to find acceptance.

"The boys in class left him alone. It was like he wasn't there," said Sheri Boots, who taught Araujo English at Bridgepoint High School in Newark. "Listening to my boys, they're very macho," she said. "Anything different from them, they're very unaccepting. It's ignorance."

"We had a group of girls who were into drugs, and they accepted him," Boots said. "He'd talk makeup and shampoos with them. He would always sit so he was surrounded by the girls."

"Even when he was killed, the guys in the class would make homophobic comments whenever a news reporter would show up," Boots added.

Araujo had transferred to Bridgepoint, a small continuation high school with about 100 students, from large American High

School in Fremont.

"I can't even imagine what cross dressing would be like in a large traditional high school," said Ron Van Ryn, Araujo's science teacher at Bridgepoint. "My guess is he was getting a lot of verbal abuse. I heard kids call him, 'fag-got,' 'girl.' He'd usually say something back."

Araujo's school career eventually wound down as his attendance at Bridgepoint dropped. Sometimes, according to teachers, s/he wouldn't show up for school for several weeks at a time. S/he started doing independent study at Crossroads High School, checking in once a week with assignments and getting new ones.

"I last saw him in February of 2001," said Bridgepoint Principal Kurt Carter.

After Araujo's murder, Valenzuela told police that she believed Araujo had provided "oral sex in exchange for marijuana and beer" and that s/he was an alcoholic and a drug user.

Guerrero told police that her son associated with male gang members. She said that Araujo had been assaulted before when, in July, she picked Araujo up in an alley in Redwood City after s/he had been out all night. She said that Araujo's abdomen had been cut with a knife.

His mother also said that Araujo was not able to find work, "because the name on the application and the person didn't match."

She said that Araujo did not tell the men he associated with that s/he was a biological male.

"His priority was not to be found out," said Valenzuela. Police say that when s/he was ultimately found out, s/he was killed.

Araujo's decline, from what Valenzuela called the "beautiful happy-go-lucky person I knew" to the subject of what Cathleen Galley, head of felony prosecutions for the Fremont-Newark District Attorney's office called "some pretty gruesome pictures," is, according to his peers and transgender advocates, because of rejection by her/his community and lack of education in the schools.

Charlene Gellner, who is a current student at Bridgepoint, said, "In Newark there's a large gang population. They don't have any education about being gay. These kids have no education on it, and the school district isn't doing anything about it."

"A lot of kids have these thoughts at the earliest age," said Edwards Foster. "But there's no role model. There's no information. You can't find this kind of information in the library. The counselors don't know much, or won't share. They fear being able to provide that information because of the backlash they would get – religiously based – from parents and administrators for providing an alternative 'unhealthy' lifestyle choice."

"This is a very critical age. They need something to validate them. To say, no you're not crazy. No you're not innately evil. To restrict this information is to leave them to find the information on their own. But these are 15- and 16-year-olds. Sometimes they make the wrong choices," said Edwards Foster.

"I go to Crossroads High too," said Valenzuela. "They don't have anything there. Newark is such a small town. They all think being gay isn't human. They all think you gotta be straight. You see a guy in a skirt on Jerry Springer – but you can't believe it would happen here."

The San Francisco-based gay Latino group AGUILAS will be holding a news conference and vigil for Araujo on Friday, October 25 at 6 p.m. in front of the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. ▼

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District 8

◀ page 18

Proposition N, Care Not Cash.

"The current Board of Supervisors can't (or won't) exercise any leadership on this #1 citywide issue so it took 22,000+ voters to place it on the ballot and it's going to pass in November and the supervisor representing District 8 better listen to the will of the voters and implement it," he stated.

O'Hearn supports the HOPE measure, which he said is "a step in the right direction in allowing small property owners some flexibility and aspiring homeowners the opportunity to own."

As for assisting homeless queer

youth, he proposed housing 30 queer youth in the new LGBT Community Center. And as an approach to helping curb the city's rising HIV rate, O'Hearn proposed the city should reopen the gay bath houses.

By doing so, O'Hearn said the city would be granting adult gay men "the respect we deserve by providing us with safe, clean private spaces to suck and fuck in while at the same time educating and informing us of the latest HIV/STD prevention information and services available."

Tom Radulovich

Openly gay BART board member Tom Radulovich stated he is against Proposition N and has



Rick Gerhardt

ers to fix a problem he feels should be dealt with by the board.

"Both of the men who would be mayor have been unable to work with their colleagues to find a solution," stated Radulovich. "Instead, they are taking an extremely complex issue that should be legislated and submitting hastily drafted propositions to voters. And voters are being forced to respond to these 'take it or leave it' measures."

To address the issues, Radulovich said the city should create more supportive housing and permanent housing with on-site social services. He also said if elected he would work to consolidate city government programs for the homeless, hold service providers accountable and eliminate waiting lists for drug and alcohol treatment on demand.

"City policies have focused on warehousing not housing," said

taken no position on Proposition O. He blasted both Ammi and supervisor Gavin Newsom for turning to the vot-

Radulovich. "We are currently spending millions of dollars each year, in essence, to keep people homeless."

As for creating more affordable housing, Radulovich said the city should create a new housing commission to plan and implement a housing strategy and should encourage the conversion of unused dot-com office space into housing. He also supports building high-rise housing in the downtown area.

"A central component of this housing plan should include building more housing that is affordable, that fits with existing neighborhoods, and is located near public transit and shopping," said Radulovich.

In regard to services for queer youth, he proposed creating a master plan of all the services that are currently being offered by nonprofit and city agencies in order to better determine where resources are needed. And he said the city needs to develop multiple responses when it comes to HIV prevention.

"There should be a dialogue among positive men about their role in prevention efforts, including the risk of reinfection with drug-resistant strains of HIV," he

said.

He also promised to listen to various opinions on issues and to try to bring all stakeholders to the table.

"In order to be effective, you must work with individuals who have different political philosophies, something that isn't working at City Hall," he said. ▼

District 8 race

◀ page 16

mayor's office of neighborhood services," said the EVPA's Serina, who has personally endorsed Dufty's campaign. "When we started work on Pink Triangle Park he helped us connect with the players of the city to make that happen."

Hansen has tried to paint Dufty as more in tune with special interests than with neighborhood needs. She argues that Dufty's approach is more suitable for a community activist than an elected politician.

"Bavan is focused on individual services. His focus is one on one," said Hansen. "The political downside is people get too focused on particular problems of the district and do not see where the city is going. As supervisor, you have to be concerned about the entire city."

As for Radulovich, his campaign has struggled to use Leno's endorsement and popularity to give it an edge over either Hansen or Dufty. Short on cash during the summer months, and unable to locate space for his headquarters in a central part of the district, Radulovich has been almost invisible compared to Hansen or Dufty, whose offices are located in the Castro and signs are easily spotted throughout the district.

Radulovich has also had to fight a perception he is a policy wonk better suited to running a planning department than sitting on the board. While he touts his work on transportation and environmental issues, he has also proposed that the best solutions for the city's homeless problems are to build more housing and provide drug treatment on demand. He has said both Care not Cash and Exits from Homelessness are flawed measures.

"We need to stop treating this like it's an emergency," Radulovich said of the homelessness debate.

So far, neither Dufty, Hansen nor Radulovich appear to have a strong lead. The other candidates in the race, James Green, a heterosexual city firefighter and paramedic, Shawn O'Hearn, an openly gay administrator at City College and Starchild, a gay escort and exotic dancer, could all pull votes from the top three front-runners. It is likely the winner will be decided in a December runoff election.

No matter who the voters decide to elect, it is certain to come down to who they feel will address their concerns and be able to provide results. Something many residents of District 8 say has been lacking from their leaders in City Hall.

"Some candidates talk about large global issues and the direction of the city. But the questions asked by citizens is 'What are you going to do about the dogs in Dolores Park?' and 'What about the guy who sleeps behind Bay View Bank?'" said Sparks. "A lot of people are fed up with the homeless issue and want something done. I think that is going to be a significant shift of social policy for this city." ▼

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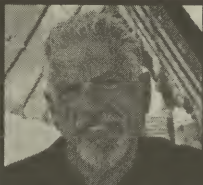
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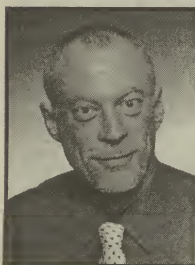
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Threet and Ubogy celebrate union

San Francisco residents Jerry Threet and Seth Ubogy celebrated their union with a "wedding" on Sunday, September 22 in a ceremony in Golden Gate Park's Fuchsia Dell.

Forty-five guests attended the couple's ceremony, which was officiated by Tom Ammann, president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The service also included a short speech on the importance of queer relationships by former Supervisor Harry Britt. Jane Morrison, grande dame of the local Democratic Party, served as flower girl.

Following the beautiful and sunny Sunday morning ceremony, guests enjoyed a reception overlooking the Marin Headlands.

Mr. Ubogy's family attended in force, including his parents, Jo and George Ubogy, his brother David, sister-in-law Beth, and their two children, and many cousins. Mr. Threet's brother, Bobby, also attended. Several family members, including his sister Melinda and parents Bobby and Shirley Threet, did not attend because of religious-based prejudice against LGBT relationships.

A main theme of the ceremony was the necessity of support for an LGBT couple in a committed relationship from their larger community in the face of societal devaluation of LGBT relationships.

While the state of California still discriminates against same-



Jerry Threet and Seth Ubogy

sex couples by refusing full legal recognition of their committed relationships, the couple chose to be married in defiance of this discriminatory standard.

"We are a family. Our marriage ceremony was a celebration and acknowledgment of that simple reality," said Mr. Threet and Mr. Ubogy. "It's past time for our political representatives to take the next step, and change the law to recognize the reality of LGBT lives. Politicians and others who truly support our community will enact legislation supporting civil unions and fully equal benefits for same-sex couples."

The men met in the fall of 1996 at a Radical Faerie gathering in Short Mountain, Tennessee, and quickly fell in lust and later in love. Mr. Threet moved to San Francisco from Provincetown, Massachusetts in the winter of 1997.

Mr. Threet currently serves as legislative aide to Supervisor Jake McGoldrick (District 1). A former Democratic Party reformer and past president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, Mr. Threet currently is a Green Party activist. He previously worked as a landlord/tenant and employment discrimination attorney in private practice; as a litigation attorney in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; and as a legislative aide to Texas state Senator Kent Caperton. Mr. Threet graduated from the University of Texas with high honors, then earned a joint degree in law and public policy from the University of Texas Law School and the LBJ School of Public Policy. He is a native of Beaumont, Texas.

Mr. Ubogy is currently completing a doctoral degree in clinical psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies, and is serving as a Post-doctoral Fellow in neuropsychology and geropsychology at San Francisco's Veterans Administration Hospital. Mr. Ubogy moved to San Francisco in 1991, after obtaining a bachelor's degree in political science at Yale University, where he graduated summa cum laude. Mr. Ubogy continued his LGBT activism upon his arrival in San Francisco, where he spent his early years working as an aide to former Supervisor Britt. Mr. Ubogy is a native of Greenwich, Connecticut. ▼

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OBITUARIES

Endorsements

◀ page 6

university systems. The money would be tightly audited to watch out for waste and misuse of funds. Many of our elementary and high schools are in rough straits with no money for repair or upgrades. Let's give our kids and young adults a fighting chance in the coming century. Vote YES on Prop. 47.

Proposition 48 Vote YES Court Consolidation. Legislative Constitutional Amendment

Four years ago voters voted to do away with the municipal court, at an annual cost savings of \$23 million a year. This proposition would clean up language in the state codes to remove obsolete references to the municipal court. It would also make conforming changes in the membership of the California Judicial Council and the membership of the Commission on Judicial Performance. We urge a YES vote on Prop. 48.

Proposition 49 Vote NO Before and After School Programs. State Grants. Initiative Statute

This is a clever piece of hokum perpetrated by actor Arnold

Schwarzenegger to manipulate the voters. On behalf of school children's welfare, it would circumvent the Legislature and the voters by taking money from existing programs to sponsor these new ones. It would take one program with a powerful sponsor and guarantee its funding every year. It would fall outside the budget process, even in tough economic times. It could take money from more critical needs, i.e. health care, environmental needs protection, public safety, and other children's programs. A bad proposition, we strongly urge a NO vote on Prop. 49.

Proposition 50 Vote NO Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water Projects. Coastal Wetlands Purchase and Protection. Bonds. Initiative Statute

This initiative doesn't even address the major issues of water supply and where to get additional drinking water. It virtually does nothing to address the California Water Project. It actually prohibits bond funds from building new dams and reservoirs. It also does not address state and local operation and maintenance costs. Vote NO on Prop. 50.

Proposition 51 Vote NO Transportation. Distribu-

tion of Existing Motor Vehicle Sales and Use Tax. Initiative Statute

This proposition is so loaded with pork it oinks to the ballot. In the guise of repairing roads and older school buses, it allows too many special interest groups to get their hands on already designated money. It would redirect specified general fund revenue to transportation-related programs, totaling about \$420 million in 2002-03, \$910 million in 2003-04, and increasing amounts annually thereafter, depending on increasing motor vehicle sales and leasing tax revenue. Leave this money alone and do not direct it to other transportation projects. Vote NO on Prop. 51.

Proposition 52 Vote NO Election Day Voter Registration. Voter Fraud Penalties. Initiative Statute

We haven't come across a more stupid concept than this in years: to walk into a polling place on Election Day to register to vote and vote. We have all sorts of safety checks on registration and voting in place. Why abandon them at this time? We feel this will only increase voter fraud and create other unsavory situations. We strongly urge a NO vote on Prop. 52. ▼

income levels to own where they live without displacing and cannibalizing tenants?

"Those of us who have been working on housing issues for a long time know who is going to be affected by this: seniors, the disabled, and lower income folks."

Describing himself as a progressive, and even populist, Democrat, Daly does not need to list his LGBT accomplishments: he is regularly present at queer political events and has consistently supported LGBT-related legislation. As for HIV prevention, Daly's district is heavily affected by AIDS, and he wants to continue to attend CARE Council meetings and work with community groups on relevant strategies. He does not

necessarily want to separate prevention and HIV care and treatment, or pit the two efforts against one another.

If re-elected, Daly promises to continue to advocate for those without a voice, and hopefully follow in the footsteps of what he calls Supervisor Mark Leno's "really good policy work" on affordable housing.

"I will continue to consult with those people who are usually not consulted when important decision are made about them," said Daly. "Politics can often use people as pawns, and it's where racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism all converge."

"I do things differently," he said. ▼

Chris Daly

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switched course.

But besides believing that Newsum's "heart isn't really in the proposition," Daly also pointed to the ethical and practical problems of requiring people on workforce to work for less than minimum wage, and taking funds from people in shelters who are trying to save their general assistance money to get out of the shelter system. Less cash could simply keep people dependent on the city.

As for Proposition R, said Daly, "If we're supposed to be the city that knows how, why can't we provide opportunities for folks of all

cates the need for safer sex. Additional funding should go toward deepening its partnership with community organizations that can help tailor its message to their constituents."

If there is one thing that Strun-

sky wants the LGBT community to know about him, it's that "my door is always open to their issues and concerns," he said.

"This district needs healing. I will listen and work with them to get things done." ▼

District 6

◀ page 23

me, the vast majority of these people rent their homes. Proposition R will undermine rent control by removing affordable housing units through the condo conversion process. We need to address the issue of affordable housing through other means," said Strunsky, citing his support for Proposition B, the city's affordable housing bond measure.

Tourism is another concern of Strunsky's, who said that recently meeting tourists who have vowed never to return "breaks my heart."

He wants to target the international LGBT communities, sell San Francisco as a cultural market to all visitors, increase police presence in tourist areas, and most importantly, guarantee repeat visits.

A self described progressive Democrat, Strunsky also detailed his commitment to the LGBT community, which included advocating for hate crimes victims as a prosecutor, and also includes his support for the queer youth shelter and more funds for HIV prevention.

"We are facing a crisis," said Strunsky about rising HIV and STD rates among men who have sex with men. "The Department of Public Health needs to constantly change how it communi-

Sex toy ban

◀ page 14

bore "no rational relation to a legitimate state interest." At that time, however, Smith did not support the plaintiffs' claims that the law interfered with privacy rights, stating that "this court refuses to extend the fundamental right of privacy to protect plaintiffs' interest in using sex toys."

The state appealed, and in October 2000, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the ruling, sending the case back to Judge Smith for reconsideration.



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Greg Cobioni



Greg Cobioni, age 52, a native and lifelong lover of San Francisco, passed away suddenly on October 2. He is survived by his loving parents Aldo and Pearl Cobioni, and the many friends he has met around the world. Retired from the airline industry, Greg played hard and lived hard. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. On November 2, a tree will be planted in his memory at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. For those who wish to attend, please RSVP to Immore@best.com.

Oscar Penagos



"That's All Folks!" An apt epitaph for a lifelong fan of Bugs Bunny, our sweet, beloved Oscar Penagos died unexpectedly on September 28. He will be remembered as a generous man with a great sense of humor who lived life with an almost childlike exuberance.

Born and raised in Pocatello, Idaho, Oscar attended the Fashion Institute in Los Angeles, receiving degrees in design and merchandising. He worked as both a stylist and a designer before moving to the Bay Area to be closer to his family. His last position was as the Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Project Management at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. In his spare time, Oscar studied graphic design, and combined with his love of music, made CD

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization—and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

covers for his friends, and created the graphic design on CDs for several professional DJs.

Most notable about Oscar, however, was his genuine empathy and concern for others, and the rambunctious, emotionally invested way he lived his life. Oscar threw his energy into the community with the same care and commitment. He was a member of CheerSF from 1995 to 2000 and was involved in writing and poetry workshops through the years.

Oscar's death was quite sudden and due to an unknown heart condition. We are comforted to know that his partner was at his side and Oscar knew he was loved. A memorial celebration will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday October 26, at 3025 Market Street. We want it to be big, brassy, and honorable like Oscar, so anyone who so much as met him is urged to attend.



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Participants will receive \$25 per visit.

Track record

by Jim Provenzano

While not exactly sprung from his head fully armed, as Athena did from Zeus, Gay Games did start in the mind of a track star, Olympian triathlete Tom Waddell.

Fitting that the San Francisco Track & Field Club continues this tradition where Waddell competed, at San Francisco State University and Kezar Stadium, where the first Gay Games Opening Ceremonies were held.

Coach Frank Demby, a multi-medalist and Gay Games veteran,

noted how populated the track events will be, with over 1,100 athletes, and almost 30 from the Bay Area.

"This is the most diverse and dynamic team ever, with a wider range of runners and field events," said Demby. "The team is not afraid to try new things."

Among those are multi-medalist runner Gwynn Villegas, shot-putting multi-medalist Luke Cottrill, enthusiastic novice Ross Hayduk, javelin

thrower/sprinter Fred Kluth, runner Reggie Snowden, and multi-medalist runner Brian Mutert, who said at the team's Sunday morning practice at SFSU, one of the last before Sydney, "the heart and soul of Gay Games is in our organization."

Rick Thoman, who co-founded the track club, noted that while this is the smallest contingent



SF Track & Field members, clockwise from upper left: pole vaulter Allen Eggman; javeliners Fred Kluth, Amy Norquist, Joe McFerran, Carlos Ferreira, Giampiero Mancinelli, and Brian Mutert; discus thrower Mike Moorefield; Heptathlete Amy Norquist; six-time Games veterans Rick Thoman and Carmen Morrison.

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going, "This is our largest group of field events competitors in the team's history." Here are just some of the Sydney-bound track and field athletes:

Allen Eggman (decathlon, high jump, pole vault, discus, javelin, relays): Competing in the 40-45-year-old age group, Eggman has fond memories of SF State's track. "It's been 20 years. It's neat to be back and train here again." As a decathlete and multi-event competitor (Amsterdam silver medalist), he'll enjoy the thrill of doing several events twice over two days. Like many tracksters, the Central Valley native is recovering from the ever-present hamstring pull.

Carlos Ferreira (100m, 200m, 4x100 relay, javelin): Sydney will mark his fifth Games. Carlos played softball in 1986 with Los Angeles, watched track and field events, and was hooked. "What strikes me is the peacefulness of the track." He admits having been intimidated by the SF track team at Vancouver. "Their guys are setting the standard." After moving to San Francisco, he took up track, and won five medals, proving that, "It's about participation, to try things you never thought you could do before."

Giampiero Mancinelli (100m, 200m, 4x100, 4x200, 4x400 & medley relays, javelin, hammer, long & triple jump): The Italian native has lived in the Bay Area for seven years. A Stanford particle physicist, he joined the track and field team after playing soccer with the SF Spikes and LA Eclipse (gold medalists in Amsterdam) and the Philadelphia Falcons. "Training has been hard. I had to learn plenty about injuries and understanding my body. I've always loved track and field since I was a kid. The Gay Games are giving me the chance to try something I'd never thought I

could do, but I've always wished to. It's definitely been a long way since my childhood days of jumping on my family's olive trees in Assisi."

Joe McFerran (javelin, 4x100 & medley relays, and powerlifting & rugby): With three diverse sports on his list, McFerran has taken his mother's saying to heart: "The most important aspect about sports is to participate." "The Games are an opportunity to focus on inclusion and to encourage others to pursue sports which they felt they were discouraged from previously," he added.

Mike Moorefield (100m, 200m, 4x100, 4x200 & coed medley relays; discus, hammer, javelin, shot put): Proudly competing in the 50-54 age category, Moorefield's previous medals from New York and Amsterdam include six medals; two gold, silver, and bronze each in sprint relays, discus and 400m. The Guerneville resident's love of track "gives me an opportunity to 'go for it' and accomplish it. I like the good health it promotes." He'll be reporting in Sydney for the North Bay gay paper *We the People*.

Carmen Morrison (100m, 200m 400m, shot-put discus and javelin): The sixth time around should prove victorious again for the world-class multi-medalist. Morrison has competed in every Games, and many major track events during her career. Despite an ACL injury, she's recovering, and is determined to run her favorite events once again. "We are serious athletes taking pride in what we do." Morrison will post her first-hand accounts from Sydney on www.gay.com.

Bruce Nickerson (relays, 800 meter run): The gay rights attorney's first Gay Games was in New York in 1994. He won the gold in the 800 meter run (over 50 divi-

sion) and anchored Team SF to victory in the (over 50) 4 x 400 meter relay. "It was the greatest moment of my athletic life, because I was running for the first time as a proud, openly gay man." Four years later, after advanced coronary artery disease, a heart attack and a quadruple bypass operation, he recovered, did an AIDS Ride, climbed White Mountain to a height of 14,250 feet, and now the doctors have cleared him for the Games in Sydney. "Life truly begins at 60!"

Amy Norquist (heptathlon: 4x200m & 800m relays, 100m hurdles, javelin, long jump, high jump, shot put): A top competitor in track and field at Stanford University and Washington State, Norquist will be busy both days of the track events. The heptathlon consists of seven events that showcase diverse skills. She'll also be doubling up those skills in individual competition for several events.

Rick Thoman (shot-put, 100m, 200m, 400m, and 4x100m, 4x200m, 4x400m relays): A founding member of the San Francisco Track & Field Club (as well as a medalist in all five Gay Games), he's one of almost 50 six-time competitors. "The Games continue to be a source of pride and enjoyment for me and I'm grateful to be able to experience another Games with all the wonderful athletes we have on the San Francisco Track & Field team." He hopes to find time to relax after the track events. "I'll visit Melbourne to recuperate." ▼

Visit www.sydney2002.org.au and www.teamsf.org for late announcements. Send your last-minute pre-Gay Games and local sports info to jimproven@yahoo.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



VACANCY NOTICES - Boards, Commissions

Interested Persons may obtain an application form from the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsuprvs

Bicycle Advisory Committee: The Bicycle Advisory Committee shall consist of 11 voting members, one appointed by each member of the Board of Supervisors. This Advisory Committee will be composed of concerned and informed residents and will provide the best single source of expertise and perspective for transportation planners. In addition to the 11 voting members, some City Departments will provide a non-voting representative to attend the Committee meetings.

NATURE BY DESIGN TRADE SHOW will teach residents how to reduce their water bills and their impact on the environment on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett. Free admission, door prizes of washers and dryers, free giveaways, hands-on how-to demonstrations, live music and children's activities make this an educational, fun family event. Local high schools compete against each other on their knowledge about the environment in the City's second annual Environment Fact Bowl. The City's Recycled Fashion from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. will have entrants competing for Best "Out to the Clubs" and Best "Work Wear" outfits made out of materials such as silicon chips, bubblewrap and plastic. For more information, call (415) 554-7755.

POLLING PLACE MAY HAVE CHANGED

The Department of Elections encourages all voters to review the location of their polling place. As a result of redistricting, voters' political districts, (congressional, state senate, state assembly, supervisorial and BART), may have changed based upon population shifts that have occurred. Therefore, voters' precinct polling places may also have changed. Voters are encouraged to check the back of the sample ballot booklet for the correct voting location.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Citizens Committee on Community Development, the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD) and the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH) are convening 2 public hearings to collect public input on community development and neighborhood housing needs that will be considered when making allocation considerations for program year 2003 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) program funds.

These hearings are an opportunity for individuals to inform MOCD and MOH of the needs within their neighborhood. We are particularly interested in soliciting input on service gaps, unmet needs, and increasing efficiency of service delivery systems and infrastructure support for organizations. Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2002; and Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2002, both at 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., City Hall - Room 263.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPCOMING EVENTS:

October 26, 2002 - re-opening of Station 32 and ribbon cutting ceremony
Station 32 is located in Bernal Heights and is one of the first openings in a residential neighborhood, the station has undergone seismic retrofit for the past year. The Mayor, members of the Board of Supervisors as well as the Fire Commission and Fire Chief Trevino are scheduled to attend
October 26, 2002 - Walk for the Gold
This event co-sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department will help raise funds for the Special Olympics. The scheduled start time for this event is 0830 at Willie Mays Plaza. For more information please go to www.soncc.org or call 415-552-2663 ext 21.

STATEMENT FILE 0260891-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Continental Mail Co. 537 Jones Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Edward White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 11, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/13/2002.
OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261220-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chutney. 511- Jones Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Mohammad A. Bajwa and Arif Zahir. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 27, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/27/2002.
OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261212-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Van Ness Auto Body. 74 12th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Tony Feng and Stanley Zhu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/27/2002.
OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-02-540459

In the Matter of the Application of Hnin Soe Moe. For change of Name. The application of Hnin Soe Moe for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Hnin Soe Moe has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mabel Soe Moe. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of November at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 02-540472

In the Matter of the Application of Dawn Marie Weinschrott. For change of Name. The application of Dawn Marie Weinschrott for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Dawn Marie Weinschrott has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dawn Marie Weinschrott Revilla. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 05 day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 02-540475

In the Matter of the Application of Tamara Rose Marie Berry For change of Name. The application of Tamara Rose Marie Berry for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tamara Rose Marie Berry has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Tamara Rose Marie Broussard. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 09 day of December at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 236603

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Beldoria Restaurant. Located at: 2162 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business was conducted by a corporation signed Fabrizio Laudain, president. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: November 30, 1999.
OCT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Outayakul Nopakun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 312 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. Type of license Applied for:
**41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
OCTOBER 10, 17, 24, 2002**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Hine Laboratories Inc The. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 365 Tehama Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for:
**20- OFF SALE BEER AND WINE
OCT. 10, 17, 24, 2002**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Decruz Dolores Munoz, Cruz Otto. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3481 18th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. Type of license Applied for:
**41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
OCTOBER 17, 24, 31, 2002**

STATEMENT FILE 0261560-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: All About Children. 1412 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Edward Romanov and Janet Romanov. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/11/2002.
OCT. 17, 24, 31, NOV 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261306-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hostcast. 1690 Bay Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by limited liability corporation signed Angel Lance, owner, manager, member. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 12, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/02/2002.
OCT. 24, 31, NOV 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261196-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The New Black. 2120 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Scott J. Owens Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2002.
OCT. 24, 31, NOV 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261755-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rosie's Florist. 1155 Market Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/22/2002.
OCT. 24, 31, NOV 7, 14, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Angeleri Antonello and Angeleri Janie. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 641 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. Type of license Applied for:
**41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
OCTOBER 24, 31, NOV. 7, 2002**

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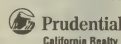
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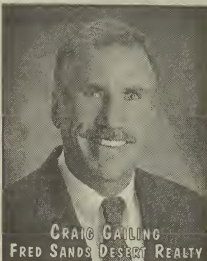
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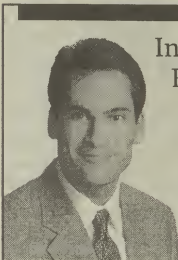


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2



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Proceeds from AIDS/LifeCycle will benefit the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, two of the oldest and largest AIDS service organizations in the state that annually provide tens of thousands of people with medical care, counseling, housing and vital educational and preventative programs. Because the beneficiaries have assumed full responsibility for the production of AIDS/LifeCycle, you can be assured that costs will remain under control, thereby maximizing the return of funds for vital AIDS services.

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*CA Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS **Consensus meetings on HIV/AIDS Incidence and Prevalence in California, December 2001

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Spy drama a drag
In *'All the Queen's Men,'* it's bombs away.
page 42



Magnificent obsession
Bob 'Hogan' Crane, sex addict, in 'Auto Focus.'
page 43



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 43 • 24 October 2002

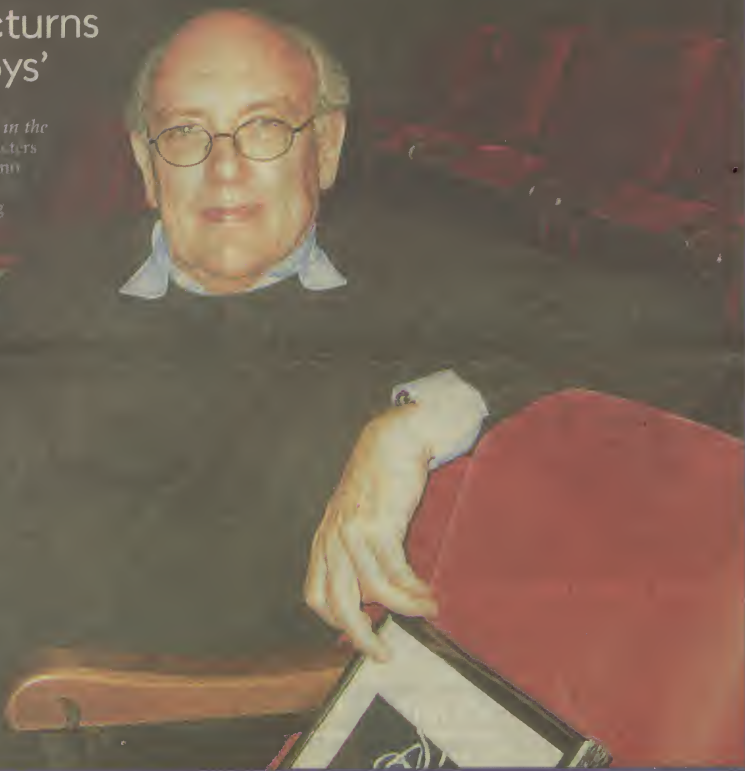
The boys in the band meet the new generation

by Richard Dodds

by Richard Dodds

Playwright Mart Crowley returns with 'The Men from the Boys'

page 48 ►



Richard Dodds



MoSex
Executive
Curator
Grady Turner

Serious sex

The B.A.R. visits New York City's new Museum of Sex

by Liz Highleyman

After five years of planning and nearly a month of construction delays, New York City's Museum of Sex (MoSex) opened on October 5, bringing a new kind of culture to a city that's seen it all.

Unlike "erotic museums" in cities such as Amsterdam and Berlin, with their dungeon tableaux and photographs of women getting it on with animals, MoSex focuses on the serious side of sex. Executive Director Daniel Gluck said he sees MoSex as the equivalent of the Museum of Modern Art, while the European tourist traps are like Ripley's Believe It or Not.

The museum's inaugural exhibit, *How New York City Transformed Sex in America*, tells the story of emerging sexual cultures in the city, and how they influenced the development of modern attitudes about sex and sexuality. From the Comstock laws of the late 1800s to former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's clean-up of Times Square in the 1990s, the ongoing

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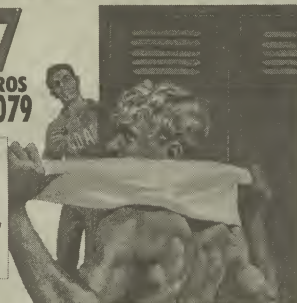
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by Roberto Friedman and Fanny Base

San Francisco is still spinning on its silly little head from the whirlwind brought by the Baz Luhrmann crowd and their glamorous *Bohème* opening at the Curran and the Clift last week. When you're sitting an aisle away from film-world emissaries



Andy Garcia, godfather of cool

Andy Garcia and George Lucas, while Aussie giantess Nicole Kidman towers overhead like some



Nicole Kidman, super-sized

exotic giraffe, that's a lotta star wattage to contend with. Fortunately, your Uncle Out There is quite immune to the artificial allure of celebrity.

La Bohème is going straight to Broadway from here, and so the question is, When did SF suddenly become the new Philadelphia? Don't get us wrong, we have no doubts about our hometown's charms as a tryout town, but we suspect the reason Baz was here is that he wanted to make his splash closer to Hollywood than Sydney. We see a silver-screen *Bohème* in his future. Maybe the Ho'wood presence in the audience explained all the yakking into cell phones around us. We overheard a young thing wondering aloud, "Who wrote the score to this? And who wrote the lyrics?"

Our pluperfect "Plus One" for the evening was the sort of date who announces, "There's [SF society doyenne] Denis Hale!" then runs over, gets right in said face, and gets that picture! He was just the companion one wants for this type of occasion, celebrity-focused. Opera diva Frederica "Flicka" von Stade was the recipient of a big hug along with her photo op. And handsome actor Ben Davis, a knockout Marcello from the whatever-color cast, was spotted at 20 paces.

Local music critics were still carrying on about the *Bohème* the next night in the War Memorial press room. All the eye-rolling about Baz & Co. helped them keep their minds off the *Otello* they were about to endure.

Hat and some fat

KRON-TV film critic Jan Wahl, known in some circles as "the Hat Lady," lived up to one of her saucier nicknames during last Thursday's 5 p.m. newscast. Making her video rental recommendations, Wahl flashed the following title across the screen as her lead recommendation: *The Count of Monte Crisco*. Calls to the station (and there were several) pointed out that the classic novel-turned-movie was not, in actuality, a can of fat. Out There's informant spoke with a female KRON employee who rather sheepishly received the telephone complaints. When our informant suggested the person who did the title block should be fired, he was told, "Well, she [Wahl] did that herself. It was correct in the copy." Is it any wonder NBC dumped KRON as its local affiliate?

Still laughing

We asked lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhoefer — who headlines the fourth LesBiGay Comedy Night, *It's A Scream!* on Friday, October 25, 8 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Center for the

Arts, Santa Rosa — is it still possible to be funny these days?

"It's territorial. Certain areas of the country are funny, some are not," said Westenhoefer by phone from the Cape. "You don't want to be at the Improv in DC and be making sniper jokes. But see, you laughed." We agreed with Suzanne that there's still plenty to snort over, even in dangerous times. Take George W. Bush — "suddenly, everybody thinks he's smart," she said with a knowing chortle.

Glammy femme Westenhoefer was once on the Sally Jesse Raphael show for a segment called, "Lesbians Who Don't Look Like Lesbians." So we asked her if she, in turn, was ever fooled by gays or lesbians who don't fit the stereotypes.

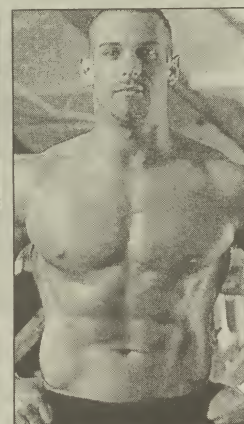
"No, my radar's pretty good. I'm in the high 99th percentile for recognizing

guys. Even if they're very butch, there's usually a little something I can tell. But girls can fool ya." She recounted a recent visit to Maine, where all the women looked outdoorsy and dykey in that L.L. Bean way. But we have a hunch Westenhoefer will recognize any lesbians who come out to see her show in Sonoma County. Tickets (\$20-\$35) are available at the LBC Box Office, (707) 546-3600.

The roving eye

Separated at birth?: Outgoing Mr. Gay SF 2002 Fernando Robles (as seen in society columnist Sweet Lips' 10/17 B.A.R. column) and Broadway baby Liza Minnelli's ambiguously gay new hubby, David Gest. Trust us on this.

A sports commentator revealed during Game 2 of the World Series that Anaheim Angel Brad Fullmer has a side career as



Brad Fullmer, out of uniform

a bodybuilder who poses shirtless for muscle mags. Here's a juicy example. Inquiring minds want to know more. Is Brad a pitcher or a catcher? Does he have a future in color glossies? We know some fans who'd like to see him wielding his bat and balls.

This week on *Inside the Winston Cup*, the panel of drivers discussed the groove around the race track in Atlanta. The show's host, Michael Waltrip, asked racer Jeff Gordon about his line in the corner. "Do you like the top or the bottom?" asked Waltrip.

Gordon replied, "I often start out on top, but I like the bottom at the end."

Event watch

The New York Times and Audi
page 45 ▶

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Lesbian comic Suzanne Westenhoefer has great gaydar.

THEATRE

Grand illusion

Color-coded 'Boheme' at the Curran

by Richard Dodds

It's probably a little late in the game to be reviewing *La Boheme* — the opera itself and not the production at the Curran — but director Baz Luhrmann is boldly pitching his celebrated staging to theater audiences who don't necessarily have much of a background in opera. For many of these folks, as it was with me, this will be their first live production of Puccini's 1895 opera. At the risk of being nominated for a Phyllis Stein award, I must report that *La Boheme* needs work.

One could hardly imagine a better introduction to the piece than what Luhrmann has wrought, but even a stunning production won't disguise the fact that the story has huge holes in it. We see the beginning of a love affair and the very end of it, but frustratingly little of what comes between.

Luhrmann, rather than trying to disguise a choppy libretto, has chosen to accentuate it. The show comes to a complete standstill between each of its four scenes. Huge pieces of scenery are hauled, lifted, lowered, and spun by semi-costumed stagehands, in a throwback to stage spectacle before it became portable and mechanized.

By letting us know that, yes, he gets that opera can seem clunky and artificial, Luhrmann has taken that complaint out of play for audiences ready to go along with his vision. Interest moves to those musical elements that have let the work endure, and Luhrmann ratchets up accessibility by moving the tale to 1957 Paris, and populating it with looks-appropriate singers. He even has fun with the fonts for the surtitles.

Red dawn

After its SF run, this production moves immediately to Broadway. But it is still *bona fide* opera, and the vocal demands (eased by some low-key miking) require double and triple casting among the four principal roles. There is already local debate about which color-coded cast is best. Luhrmann and his producers had the chance to choose, and they chose the "Red" cast headed by Ekaterina Solovyeva and David Miller, as Mimi and Rodolfo, to face the bulk of the critics, the celebrities, and the TV cameras.

It doesn't take a deep background in opera to realize that these performers have the real thing vocally. While Solovyeva at first looks too robust and prosperous as the ailing Mimi, she carries us along with her vocal clarity and finesse, and rises impressively to the character's big musical moments. As the struggling writer Rodolfo, Miller is



David Miller, Rodolfo, and Ekaterina Solovyeva, Mimi, head 'Red' cast.

convincing in a slightly preppy sort of way, and he will bring his own converts to the music of Puccini. As the rough-edged lovers Marcello and Musetta, Eugene Brancoveanu and Jessica Comeau add further heat to the production.

Luhrmann is best known for his visually ornate movies, including *Strictly Ballroom* and *Moulin Rouge*, and their distinctive look carries into *La Boheme*. That is not a surprise, since Catherine Martin, Luhrmann's wife, has been the designer on all his major projects. What is a surprise is how Luhrmann and Martin have made such a big production out of their production.

It seems a strange choice when the first scenery change is so visibly full of effort, but it resonates in the overall effect. Luhrmann seems to be after. Despite their bulk, the sets don't overwhelm the story. But for those with a taste for spectacle, you may never again see something as theatrically glorious as the unveiling of Paris at night. It is definitely gasp-worthy. ▼

La Boheme will run at the Curran Theatre through Nov. 10. Tickets are \$40-\$90. Call 512-7770.



Up on the roof: Rodolfo and Mimi share a private moment with l'amour.

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Johnson and Johnson

Get pumped for 'Puppetry of the Penis' at Theatre on the Square

by Richard Dodds

What's the biggest downside to the implausible success for the two guys from *Puppetry of the Penis*? It's the puns.

"Thank you for not using any puns," said Simon Morley to an interviewer who actually did have a pun in waiting, but fortunately not yet used.

Morley and David Friend have done hundreds of interviews in the past few years for their superior ability at manipulating their penises into recognizable objects, such as a hamburger, the Eiffel Tower, and the Loch Ness Monster. To understand their aversion to puns, consider this sampling of newspaper headlines:

"Tool Time" - *Ottawa Sun*
 "Privates on Parade" - *Newcastle [UK] Evening Chronicle*
 "Two Groin Men" - *Melbourne Herald Sun*
 "The Thing's the Play" - *Toronto Star*

"Puppeteers Told to Zip It" - *New York Post*

"Penile Puppeteers Make It Big, So to Speak" - *Edmonton Sun*
 "Johnson and Johnson" - *Bay Area Reporter*

The above list also indicates how far their little show has taken these Aussie gents, who once entertained pubmates with their dick tricks after downing enough pints. Beginning Oct. 29 at Theatre on the Square, Morley and



(Left to right): Penis puppeteers Simon Morley and David Friend: "It's more of a stretch factor."

Friend will add San Francisco to the cities where they've invited audiences to laugh at their genitals.

"When we first started doing the show," Morley said, "we used to joke, 'Well, one place it's definitely going to be San Francisco. If it's ever going to work, it should work there.'"

While Morley and Friend, both in their 30s, are straight and

claim their show is totally nonsexual, gay men and straight women have represented a high percentage of audiences. "When we took the show to New York, we initially got a very strong gay following," said Morley. "But then the word got out that it wasn't a gay show. It wasn't in the same vein as *Naked Boys Singing*. It actually was for everyone. So we still get a heavy gay contingent, but we get every-

one."

Last stand

Morley and Friend usually take the show into a new town, and perform it while holding auditions and training replacements, before moving on to another city. There are five companies currently performing around the globe, and many more are planned. But San Francisco may be the last city where the originators actually perform the show themselves.

"I'm not sure I'll perform the show anymore after San Francisco," said Morley, who had been a comedy promoter in Australia. "I just need to have a life back."

Friend is also looking ahead to a post-*Penis* life. "I want to get enough money so I don't have to work anymore," said the ex-policeman and former computer programmer. "I want a nice house on the beach somewhere, with a big bag of ice to sit on and rest my weary nuts."

Morley and Friend met in Australia after discovering they shared a talent for "the ancient Australian art of genital origami," per the show's facetious subtitle. "Simon was doing an impromptu performance in the toilets of a nightclub," Friend said. "My flatmate happened to be one of the bouncers there, heard there was some guy doing dick tricks in the toilet, so he got on the phone straight to

me, because I was the only person a lot of people had ever heard of doing it."

Friend somehow tracked down Morley while he was eating dinner in a beer garden, and approached the unaware Morley with a list of tricks that he could do with his penis.

"There I was minding my own business," Morley said. "I lost my appetite rather smartly there. [Penis tricks] always had a place, like, after a few drinks. It's a party trick, but at 8 o'clock at night while you're sitting there eating, it was a little shocking at first."

Once they started getting paid to perform, Morley and Friend realized it was best if they did it sober. "I very rarely have a drink before a show," Morley said. "There's dialogue. You have to stay on top of that stuff."

Morley and Friend created a script from their originally improvised banter as their penile "installations" are projected on a large screen for an up-close-and-personal effect. I got the same effect live when Morley and Friend dropped their trousers, spent a few moments stretching and positioning, and turned to reveal their cocks and balls arranged to look like hamburgers just inches from my face.

As they have done in other cities, Morley and Friend may pass the show on to replacements if the show runs beyond the end of November. "Approximately 50 percent of the world has the equipment to do the show," Friend said.

But doesn't size matter? "We don't like to talk length," Morley said. "Obviously, everyone can do some of the tricks. It's more a stretch factor, I think. We sometimes see a guy come to an audition with a huge penis, and he hasn't been able to do much at all with it. You can be too big."

"You don't want too much meat in your hamburger," Friend added.

"We're looking for people who are very natural," Morley continued. "I think that's what sells the show. That's why we can get away with what we do. That, and a total lack of shame." ▼

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OPERA



Pasha Selim (Frank Hoffman) demands that Constanze (Regina Schoerg) become his lover.

Interminable Mozart

San Francisco Opera's 'Abduction'

by Stephanie von Buchau

When I was learning to love opera in the 1950s, Mozart productions were almost all candy-box pretty, slow and overloaded with luscious string tone. The singing may have been eye-glazingly soporific, but it was seldom skanky. The San Francisco Opera's revival of Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio*, which opened last Tuesday to an opera house one-quarter empty to start with (and half-empty after the second act intermission) featured more skanky singing than anybody should have to listen to in one evening.

Of lovely, rounded, mellow, sweet tones there were zero, except in a couple of tenor Paul Groves' middle-register legato phrases. The two women — Regina Schoerg and Jennifer Welch-Babidge — had what I can only describe as lemony sopranos. Schoerg's rapid-fire coloratura in the high register (granted, some of the most unsingable music ever written) sounded like a toy-train whistle. Groves took breaths in his big aria where he should not have, and though bass Michael Eder got down to the bottom Cs and Ds of his subterranean role, they had no weight and sounded like a casual accident rather than an achieved goal.

The skankiest performance was from Peter Bronder's Pedrillo. The servant looked like the Anaheim Angels' Rally Monkey and may have sung like him (I missed RM's last recital) in a voice that couldn't discriminate between baritone or tenor, and had an off-putting, asexual, anti-human quality. It is never a good idea for the servants in an 18th-century comedy to be sexless, something that stage director Stephen Wadsworth knows only too well. Perhaps he used all his available rehearsal time on the only actor in the cast, Frank Hoffmann, who speaks the non-singing role of Pasha Selim.

Selim has incarcerated Constanze (Schoerg) and demands that she become his lover, but he will not force her. This makes him more enlightened than the father of Constanze's beloved Belmonte (Groves), who did Selim wrong many years ago. The new SFO

regime laid hard and heavy on themes of constancy, forgiveness, and enlightenment, but gave short shrift to the fact that Constanze and Belmonte have two of the hardest arias to sing in all of opera.

Exhaust pipes

I admit that back in the 1950s, not many could sing "Marterner aller Arten" or "Ich baue ganz" uncut, in tune, and with all of the coloratura, runs and ornaments correctly observed. Schoerg and Groves can, and for that they get minimal props, but please, if it is so strenuous, so exhausting and so unlovely to listen to, why bother? The critics who sing Schoerg's praises because she is Rosenberg's "discovery" are the same snobs who thought Laura Claycomb shouldn't be allowed to sing Zerbinetta because she was "only an Adler Fellow a few years ago." The audience, what was left of it by Act III, wisely produced only tepid appreciation on opening night.

I mention the audience because, once again, we had two hours of music stretched to a three-hour-and-15-minute running time. Baz Luhrmann's *La Bohème*, for all its high-tech showbiz frills, is lighter, airier, and almost an hour shorter than SFO's *Abduction*, yet Puccini's score is slightly longer. Blame part of that discrepancy on the opera marathon mentality — if it takes forever, it must be profound — and part of it on conductor Peter Schneider, who produced a rambling, uninflected performance from an orchestra amusingly referred to in media notes as having "reduced strings." Reduced from what? SFO employed 34 strings in these performances. Mozart was lucky if he had 34 instruments all together, and you can bet you heard more winds and brass when he was conducting.

Wadsworth's production only took fire when Pasha Selim was hitting on Constanze; i.e. the non-musical, spoken parts. I didn't feel Schoerg was any great actress, but she seemed like an honorable young woman who was truly horrified by being offered a place in the harem — until Selim kissed her. There is no crying in baseball and there is no kissing in Mozart, but Wadsworth managed the evening's only emotional tug

when Constanze seemed to realize that maybe being Selim's sweetie might have tangible rewards. It gave us something to think about anyway, while the Mozartean miles were tooling by, slowly, tediously, endlessly. ▼

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Matt LeBlanc is forced, hypermasculine, and uncomfortable in his role.

Some like it not

Matt LeBlanc in 'All the Queen's Men'

by Robert Julian

All the Queen's Men is based on the alleged true story of four men sent to Germany in 1944 to recover one of the famous "enigma" decoding devices. Three of them are soldiers, one is a gay transvestite cabaret performer, and they are asked to spend all their time behind enemy lines in dresses, pretending to be women. And by the way, two of the four spies speak no German whatsoever.

The recognizable actors who throw their careers into this breach are Matt LeBlanc (*Friends*) as a rowdy American G.I.; the heterosexual, crossdressing stand-up comedian Eddie Izzard as the drag chanteuse; and the once-respected English actor Edward Fox as the mastermind behind the operation. The script is by David Schneider and Jeff Stockwell, and direction is provided by Stefan Ruzowitzky. Fortunately, LeBlanc has a lucrative regular gig on American television. The others will be lucky to find work anywhere once *All the Queen's Men* goes into wide release.

Eddie Izzard's good moments come in his cabaret performances, but Matt LeBlanc's forced, hypermasculine pose reflects the actor's extreme discomfort with his character, and wardrobe. And Edward Fox cartoons his role as the British

stuffed-shirt commanding officer. The film's only bright spot is Nicolette Krebitz as Romy, LeBlanc's romantic interest. Somehow, Krebitz manages to keep her dignity throughout, while simultaneously communicating intelligence and sex appeal.

You could sail an aircraft carrier through the holes in the plot, but the entire effort is torpedoed early in the game by its schizophrenic tone. *All the Queen's Men* tries to be both a WWII spy drama and a drag comedy, but it is unwilling to commit to either one. The result is a succession of comedic and dramatic misfires

which rob the film of both humor and credibility. A revelation, three-quarters of the way into the film, that the four spymen are supposed to be lousy imitations of femininity does not make everything okay.

It's worth noting that something peculiar usually happens when heterosexual actors put on women's clothes: they get stupid, not funny. And stupid is the order of the day in *All the Queen's Men*. After almost two years of making its way around the festival circuit, *All the Queen's Men* opens tomorrow in a theater near you. Run for cover! ▼

David Arquette in Tim Blake Nelson's drama, *The Grey Zone*.

Horror show

'The Grey Zone' in the camps

by Brandon Judell

No pink triangles here, yet Tim Blake Nelson's *The Grey Zone* will still bang you over the head with its chronicling of interminable horrors. Based upon a memoir by Dr. Miklos Nyiszli, this the story of Auschwitz's *Sonderkommando*, a squad of Jews who for a period of up to four months led other Jews to the gas chambers, then afterwards dragged out the naked corpses to the ovens. This group's reward: food, wine and bed linen. But then when their four months are up, they're killed, too, quickly replaced by others.

Writer/director Nelson tries to capture the psychology of the men who have "agreed" to this task. After all, what choice did they have? And what keeps them going? The hope of being able to survive one more day, a day when the war might be finally over? No, not exactly.

At least the realists don't believe the war will ever be over in

time for them to survive. If so, why not do something to save their souls? But what? How about blowing up a crematorium?

And that's just what they do. But the power of *The Grey Zone* is not so much in its plot as in its visuals and the truths it unearths.

Acting-wise, you almost wish this film had been dubbed into another language and subtitled. The Nazis (e.g., Harvey Keitel) speak with a German accent, while the Polish and Hungarian Jews speak with broad American accents. David Arquette, Mira Sorvino, and several of the others grow on you. But every time Steve Buscemi and Natasha Lyonne open their mouths, you think they're auditioning for a dinner theater version of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Whatever its limitations, *The Grey Zone* will shake you up. Here is a movie that asks difficult questions, an activity few other entertainments venture nowadays. ▼

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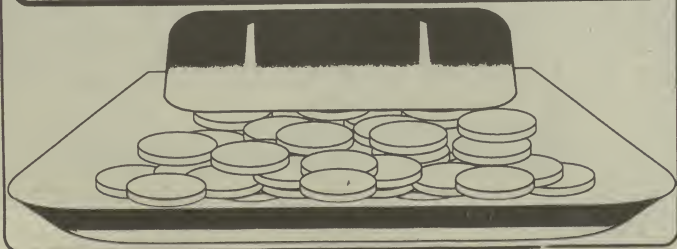


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FILM

Prime-time degenerate

The life of Bob Crane is laid bare in Paul Schrader's 'Auto Focus'

by Robert Julian

Writer/director Paul Schrader has a taste for the outré. He directed *Affliction* and *American Gigolo*, and wrote the scripts for *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, and *The Last Temptation of Christ*. In *Auto Focus*, Schrader illuminates the life and death of Bob Crane, the television star of *Hogan's Heroes* (1965-1971). It was a long, strange trip for Crane, who began his career as a radio DJ and ended up a television has-been, found murdered in a Scottsdale motel in 1978.

"Long" and "strange" are adjectives which also describe Schrader's cinematic exploration of Crane's misspent life, based on a biography by Robert Graysmith, with a screenplay by Michael Gersbosi. Schrader's inspired casting choices include Greg Kinnear as Crane; Rita Wilson as Crane's first wife, Anne; and Willem Dafoe as the creepy video salesman John Carpenter, who is the catalyst for Crane's downfall.

Schrader begins the story in the early '60s, when Crane is a popular morning DJ on a Los Angeles radio station. His simultaneous television career begins with a recurring role on *The Donna Reed Show*. But when that show is canceled, Crane's agent (Ron Leibman) sends him the script for a WWII prisoner-of-war comedy, *Hogan's Heroes*. The show is a hit, and Crane, a happy-go-lucky family man, becomes the household name every wannabe starlet in America wants to bed. A casual encounter with John Carpenter introduces Crane to the world of cocktails, strip clubs, and home videos. Suddenly, Crane and Carpenter are staying out past curfew, orchestrating orgies, and videotaping their sexual escapades for their own erotic enjoyment.

When *Hogan's Heroes* is canceled, Crane's downward spiral begins. He divorces his first wife, remarries, and starts appearing on the dinner-theater circuit because he can't get work in film or televi-



Greg Kinnear, as Bob Crane in *Auto Focus*, follows a downward spiral.

sion. Crane, who insists on showing off his personal porn collection, acquires a reputation in Hollywood as a sleazebag. His drinking escalates, and he becomes paunchy and dissolute. Finally, his second wife divorces him. When his theatrical road-show pulls into Scottsdale, alcohol, sex, and John Carpenter are all Crane has left.

Homo attraction

Production designer James Chinlund and costume designer Julie Weiss do exceptional work recreating the look and feel of the '60s and early '70s, from Banlon sweaters to tie-dyed caftans. And Greg Kinnear's performance strikes a perfect balance between intelligent bonhomie and degenerate obsession. He is assisted in copendence by Willem Dafoe's rendering of John Carpenter. The elephant in the room neither man wants to acknowledge is the homosexual attraction the men have for each other. It flares up early in their relationship when Crane screens a video and notices Carpenter's hand fondling Crane's naked ass. This incident creates a schism between the two men, but within a few years, they find them-

tion with one of his female conquests. They talk about babes, but the action is all about dick.

Director Schrader establishes the sunny optimism of Crane's early career at the beginning of the film, but the tone quickly veers toward sleaze, and stays there to the end. Unfortunately, the film's pace begins to drag in the final act. Crane's descent becomes both predictable and repetitive in its cinematic presentation, and Angelo Badalamenti's score only adds to the monotony. Badalamenti is a master of the mournful string quartet, as he demonstrated in his score for David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive* and Schrader's last film, *Forever Mine*, but his work here is particularly leaden.

Auto Focus is a dark little film, compelling but not engrossing. But it is also a film that sticks with you after you leave the theater. Fame, promiscuity, and pornography are neither new nor memorable. The haunting impact of *Auto Focus* lies in its ability to por-

tray someone who possesses a premium blend of fame, fortune, and family, and throws it all away because of sexual obsession. ▼

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Visionary film director Akira Kurosawa brought Toho Studios to the brink of bankruptcy in 1954 with his epic-scale *Seven Samurai*, starting Friday, October 25 at the Castro Theatre for a one-week run. It's that grand opera of swordfighting which has inspired just about every posse film from *The Magnificent Seven* to *A Bug's Life*. Spears, men, horses, rain and mud: it's all here, in Kurosawa's virtuoso technique. The ensemble cast is capped by master actor Toshiro Mifune (pictured) as the clown Kikuchiyo, whose personal quest to prove himself a samurai warrior transforms him from manic, goofy guy to tortured, self-hating hero. Now *that's* entertainment. ▼

What's real anymore?

Reggio's 'Naqoyqatsi' opens at Lumiere

by Michael McDonagh

One night when I was walking home from work, I noticed a stalled bus on Van Ness, and a group of young people talking on the corner. An electrical fire had just been put out on the top of the nearly completed condo complex Pacific Place. And since there were reporters there and it was obviously going to be on the news, one in the group said he'd have to catch what happened when he got home. Here was something real, but he couldn't validate its existence without seeing it captured and fitted into the confines of his TV screen. Has "civilization" reduced us to this? Do we disbelieve everything until it's shown after the fact? Must all our experiences be mediated and deflected?

These are some of the questions which Godfrey Reggio's strange and unsettling new film *Naqoyqatsi* ("Life as War") asks. The third installment in the director's *Qatsi* trilogy, it's also a significant departure from the first two. Where the 1982 *Koyaanisqatsi* ("Life Out of Balance") provoked, and the 1988 *Powaqqatsi* affirmed (MGM has just released them on DVD), this one broods, big-time. And what it broods on is how technology and the images it has produced have invaded our lives. Or, as Reggio has remarked, "Image has become pure illusion."

His film, which, like the first two, is pictures only, with original music by Philip Glass, is a perfectly logical extension of *Powaqqatsi*'s view of the First World preying on the Third. Here, technology preys on itself, and, by extension, us. The picture's title also bears out the director's belief that "the new divine, the computer" is the most significant development in 5,000 years. War has, in effect, been declared on the natural world, and therefore on our human way of living.

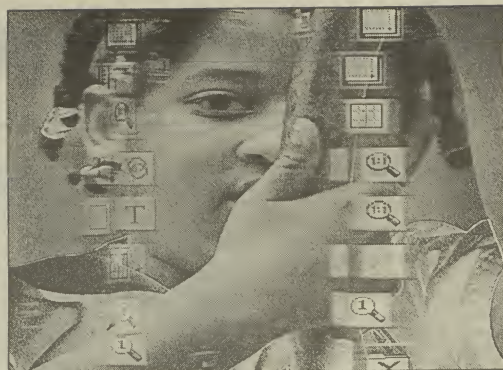
Reggio visualizes this brave new world by having his principal cameramen Russell Lee Fine, Timothy Housel, John Bailey (he shot *Mishima*, which Glass also scored), and a large tech-team make much of what we see look fake. Most of the images (80% are stock footage) are digitally altered — colorized, de-colorized, stretched, slowed, speeded up, re-patterned, re-textured, and "re-animated." Since our god is now the computer, and your PC's icon something to click on rather than an object for contemplation, this was obviously the only way to go.

Tower of power

There are many arresting sequences here. One of the most amazing is one where we seem to be traveling inside a circuit which ends up looking like Lego building blocks. There's lots of apocalyptic imagery, too — heaving oceans, mountains appearing in a digital

desert, and Pieter Brueghel the Elder's intricate and realler-than-real 1563 painting "The Tower of Babel," which opens the film, as Reggio's camera zooms in slowly. Glass' gravely beautiful music is played first by lower brass and lower strings, with Al De Ruiter's bass voice intoning "Naqoyqatsi," followed by a real human heartbeat, and star cellist Yo-Yo Ma's controlled yet highly emotive playing, and later the entire orchestra. And then we're inside a real location, the abandoned Michigan Central Railway Depot in Detroit, which perfectly matches the facades in Brueghel's picture. Reggio's use of the Tower of Babel is hardly accidental, and the images in this prologue are the seeds from which the whole film grows.

The Babel story in *Genesis* begins, "Now the whole world had one language and few words," and the director has chosen to tell his story in pictures with no words, which is how the world speaks now. The fact that the Tower of Babel, which means "Gate of God" in ancient Akkadian, really did exist in Babylon, which stretched to the Persian Gulf as Iraq does now, couldn't be more timely, or more frightening. The point of the Biblical myth is that Yahweh had to punish human pride. "This is only the start of their undertakings! Now nothing they plan will be beyond them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so they can-



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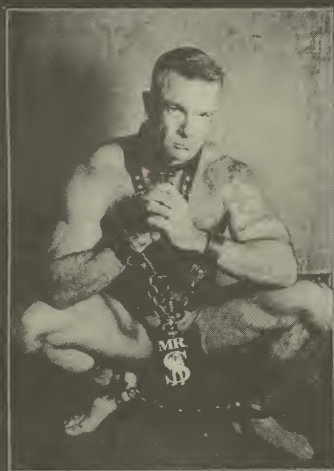
not understand one another." Humankind still doesn't seem to have gotten the point. The end of this opening sequence is chilling: crowds of people moving in dreamlike slow motion, their faces eyeless, blanced, as if they're nuked yet still-walking dead, frozen as a bar code bleeds in on the right of the screen, and they've become what we all seem to be becoming, commodities.

Reggio devotes much of the rest of his picture to showing a "world where unity is held in the vice of technological homogenization," and this has a peculiar but powerful effect. Everything — slow pans over Madame Tussaud's wax dummies of Dubya, Arafat, and other world leaders; angry protesters being beaten helpless by police; a beautiful woman eating a hamburger with obvious relish — begins to look and feel neutral, each image of equal weight. But that, I think, is Reggio's point. Counterpoised against that are

chastely erotic pictures of men and women smiling, touching, kissing, seeming nevertheless like something we've lost.

Reggio's plans for making *Naqoyqatsi* with Glass go back about 15 years. Though the composer has been involved every step of the way, he wrote the music only last year, and it was recorded at the end of the year, with Ma's solos done separately this January. The score, superbly conducted by the composer's music director Michael Riesman, moves in perfect concert with the images, augmenting and sometimes counterpointing them. The soundtrack on Sony Classical also stands completely on its own two feet — pulsing, majestic, deep. If Glass doesn't get nominated for his work in this picture, there's definitely something rotten in Denmark — er, Hollywood. ▼

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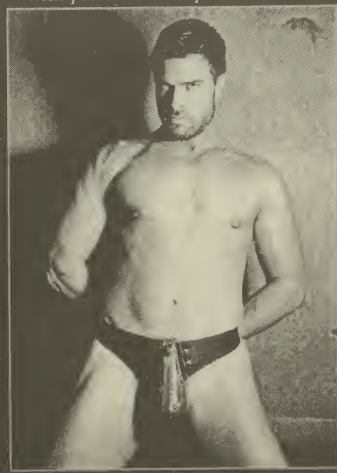
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Tricky Dick, captured in ink on paper

Philip Guston's 'Poor Richard' at the Palace of the Legion of Honor

by Will Shank

Richard Milhous Nixon was almost too easy a target. With his ski-jump nose and heavily jowled cheeks, his face begged for caricature. Rob Storr, the MoMA curator whose Gerhard Richter exhibition is currently wowing SFMOMA audiences, writes in a review of the book version of *Poor Richard*, "History shows that bad politicians often make for good art."

Guest curator Debra Bricker Balken, who also wrote the book based on the drawings currently on view at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, told me that these Philip Guston works were never intended as framed pieces in a gallery. But working with the artist's estate, the curator managed to create a fascinating traveling exhibition of the simple line drawings to complement her 2001 publication.

It is hard to place oneself back in 1971, when Nixon, one of the most controversial and polarizing Presidents in the history of the

United States, still sat in the Oval Office. It was an election year, and Nixon was still two years away from Watergate and his final humiliation. But think "W" times two to imagine the reactions of liberal Democrats to Tricky Dick. Among them was painter Philip Guston, one of the luminaries of the New York School in the 1950s and '60s, and his friend, the novelist Philip Roth. In the early '70s, in his late fifties (the same age as Nixon), Guston was having a midlife crisis, in a period when his paintings had begun to change, to some harsh criticism. Previously as rigidly abstract as his childhood friend Jackson Pollack, Guston began to incorporate inflated, cartoon-like shapes into his "late" works, in the '60s. When Roth, whom Guston met in Woodstock in 1971, wrote *Our Gang*, a parody of the Nixon White House, the closet cartoonist emerged full-force in Guston, and the *Poor Richard* drawings are the result.

Gang's all here

Blindly satirical, the draw-

ings depict Nixon as a walking horizontal phallus, his jowls transformed into a scrotum with five o'clock shadow. ("Henry the K" Kissinger fares little better as a mobile pair of eyeglasses, and Spiro Agnew is a variation on Zippy the Pinhead.) For Nixon-phobes, it is hard to suppress one's glee at the depictions of the bumbling 37th President. A loosely chronological look at Nixon's life, they begin with young Richard scheming about his future career in politics, and lead toward the torturous journey of his life as an international statesman. Nixon occasionally appears in a KKK hood, but in most of the drawings he is merely pathetic, not aggressively evil. "Perhaps Guston knew that it was more effective to make an enemy look like a fool than like a monster," the p.r. from the Legion suggests.

The addition of selections from the rich holdings of works on paper in the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts works against the Guston exhibition. This curatorial device usually works to the advantage of traveling exhibitions at the Fine Arts Museums. (Recent shows featuring Henry Moore and the Toulouse-Lautrec era spring to mind.) There are some choice pieces, including two works by Enrique Chagoya which skewer more contemporary right-wing villains like Falwell and Helms in the style of Goya's "Caprichos"



Philip Guston, "Untitled, 1971" from *Poor Richard*.

Courtesy of McKee Gallery, NY

and "Disasters of War." But the central location of the peripheral material here distracts from, rather than enhances, the small focus exhibition. Seeing several of Guston's well-known late, cartoonish paintings on loan from local collections, on the other hand, helps the visitor to put the drawings in perspective.

For Guston fans awaiting next year's major retrospective at SF-

MOMA, there will be a screening of the film *Philip Guston: A Life Lived* at the Legion on December 14 at 1 p.m., and a lecture by local poet Bill Berkson called, "Travels with Guston." ▼

Philip Guston's *Poor Richard*, through Jan. 26 at the Palace of the Legion of Honor. Info: (415) 863-3330

Out There

◀ page 38

will present a TimesTalks event next Tues., Oct. 29, in partnership with the **James C. Hormel** Center of the San Francisco Public Library. *The Commercial Closet*, a video presentation and discussion of "the best and worst" TV advertisements representing or exploiting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender images over the past 30 years, will be seen for the first time in San Francisco.

Times culture correspondent **Rick Lyman** will engage in conversation with business journalist **Michael Wilke**, creator of *The Commercial Closet* website (www.commercialcloset.org), Oct.

29, 6 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium, SF Public Library, 100 Larkin St. Admission is free. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Academy of Friends announced last week the 12 Bay Area HIV/AIDS service agencies that will be awarded as beneficiaries of the nonprofit's 23rd annual fundraising Gala on Sunday, March 23, 2003. They are: AIDS Emergency Fund; Bay Area Young Positives; CAL-PEP; Center for AIDS Services; Center for Human Development; Continuum; Larkin Street Youth Services; Maitri; Marin AIDS Project; New Conservatory Theatre; Positive Resource Center; and Project Open Hand. All worthy causes: mark that Oscar date down now! ▼



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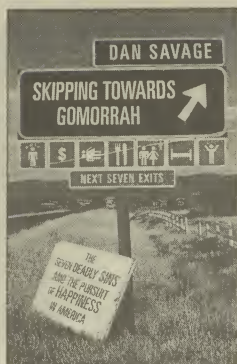
by Robert Julian

Skipping Towards Gomorrah by Dan Savage; Dutton, \$23.95

Hey faggot, Remember when you used to open your column with that salutation? Boy, those were the days, weren't they? Now you're releasing your third book, which my editor asked me to review. I read every word and must confess I think you're a real smart guy. I didn't really disagree with anything you had to say in *Skipping Towards Gomorrah*. Unfortunately, it's already been said better by others — like filmmaker/author Michael Moore in his recent book, *Stupid White Men*. Moore delivers the same sort of political-

ly correct rant with a bit more depth and a lot more venom. Who would have thought a fat, straight man could dish more dirt about America's nut-case right wing than a cute gay guy?

Right up front, you tell us you're taking a stand for our constitutional right to the "pursuit of happiness," while metaphorically flipping the bird to Dr. Laura, William Bennett, Pat Buchanan, et al. In particular, you cite your book as a response to Robert Bork's 1996 conservative opus, *Slouching Towards Gomorrah*. Dan, does that kind of tripe really deserve a response? And if it did, wouldn't it be more appropriate to respond sooner than six years after the book's publication? When I was reading your book, I kept asking myself why you both-



ered to write it, and why anyone would bother to read it. I have some ideas on this first question, but I'll get back to that in a minute.

Your self-appointed task for *Skipping Towards Gomorrah* is to commit all the seven deadly sins,

apparently with a smile on your face. You give each one its own chapter, and you travel all over America searching for the appropriate venues and co-conspirators. You have to admit, that's pretty contrived. In the second chapter, devoted to lust, you focus entirely on wife-swapping straight couples who do their "swinging" at "Lifestyles" conventions or in local clubs for swingers. But you don't allow yourself an orgasm in the entire book, or even a hard-on. So, did you deliberately set out to make a liar out of yourself, or do you think stupidity qualifies as a deadly sin?

I have to confess, I loved the chapter on gluttony, where you attend that convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Fat Acceptance (NAAFA) and hang with these really fat chicks. Those 350-pound babes really rock out, especially when they're on the prowl for "fat admirers," the male groupies of the NAAFA conventions. And I have to thank you for explaining

why men use butt-plugs. Somehow I missed that course in college. But as a work of nonfiction, *Skipping Towards Gomorrah* is both lame and tame. I think the reason I couldn't get into it is because you couldn't get into it, either. I've rarely seen an author more personally absent from the first-person prose he grinds out. You take all the fun out of sinning because you never really give into it. And what's up with that bit in the last chapter? You seek out this straight guy who makes you lick his toes while repeatedly calling you "faggot," then you give him money and thank him for his efforts. This reflects the kind of self-esteem issues that should stop you from dispensing advice to anyone, especially gay men.

Why did you write this book? At the end of the day, I could only conclude you had a commitment to the publisher that you had to fulfill. *Skipping Towards Gomorrah* is what you spat out. Next time, Dan, wait for the inspiration, then sign the contract. ▼

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Crash-tested

by Jim Nawrocki

Surviving the Moment of Impact
 by T. Cole Rachel; Soft Skull
 Press, \$12

Surviving the Moment of Impact is the debut collection of T. Cole Rachel, an Oklahoma-born poet who now lives in Brooklyn and who devotes much of his work to coming to terms with his Midwestern roots, his family, and the difficulties of gay love. Of course, these aren't new themes for poetry, or even gay poetry; the real test of a poet's success is not so much where he or she takes us, but how they take us there.

In theme and subject matter, Rachel's work seems to hearken back to that of the "Confessional Poets" of the 1950s and '60s. Each poem is dominated by unflinching, even searing self-examination, and meditations on family are particularly important. In form, however, Rachel is more contemporary. In structure to those of the so-called "slam" poets. Dominated by a very strong narrative line, they employ subtle rhythmic devices that lend the poems to performance, and they often contain references to popular culture that help ground them in time and place.

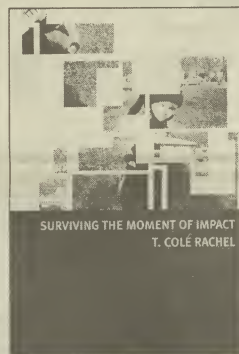
Some of the most powerful poems in the collection are Rachel's portraits of his parents. In "July 4, 1996," for example, he watches his mother during the holiday fireworks display, "her face half-hidden by smoke and night, I think that she is nothing at all..." It is a poem about an adult child contemplating a parent, "the good son, again, watching that older/female version of myself..." In "My father, one of those things I never write about," Rachel ruminates upon the curious and somewhat dark presence that his father has been, but he does so obliquely and ironically, defining it as an absence.

The narrative quality of Rachel's poetry comes through strongly in poems like "yr so great," a poignant and somewhat painful exploration of a young boy's first glimmerings of same-sex desire. The boy slips a secret

valentine to his beloved, and thrills at the prospect that "he will read this and know i imagine/our eyes meeting across a crowded classroom, a silent recognition." But the idyll is interrupted by discovery, and the boy retreats, "reminding myself to stay away from those boys/who make me too happy."

The title poem of the collection is an extended reckoning, Rachel's attempt to map the psychological geography of where he's come from, and what it means to have left it behind. It's an accounting, a comparison between the reality of where and what he was and the "somewhere" that he always dreamed of escaping to: "so they wave from the house, the props are all left in place/as he drives down brown gravel to the spot/somewhere people leave and don't look back/where dirt gives way to asphalt, highway..."

In more than a few poems offered in this collection, Rachel presents works that are self-conscious explorations of the craft of poetry, "self-aware" poems that explore the limits and possibilities of the form. In "the project of the poem," for example, he presents a kind of meditative laundry list of his major poetic themes. In another work, titled "the poem is," he offers an appreciation of the mysterious appeal of poetry: "and then, when you think this poem/has gone, it raises the blinds/and wakes you, begging/shut up and look, you idiot/look, just for a moment/at how beautiful we can become." ▼



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TELEVISION

The hunt for red October

by Victoria A. Brownworth

For the two years that the Bush Administration has eviscerated the economy, promulgated imperialism, and created isolationist policies that would make Pat Buchanan blush, each member of the Bush team from the President down has attempted to blame the Clinton Administration for every failure of its own. The glaring exception would be that Bush *père* didn't take out Saddam Hussein; try as they will, Bush Redux simply can't pin that one on Clinton.

Thus it should come as no surprise that the Bush Administration has already laid blame for last week's alleged political shocker, the "discovery" that the world's most dangerous nation, North Korea, has been building a nuclear arsenal since 1994, at Clinton's feet. Every Bush lackey has spouted this disclaimer while also spewing their own: The US will not be taking military action against North Korea because, in the words of the President, we can't be everywhere at once, and Iraq is of primary interest. Translation: North Korea has no oil, just millions of people dying of starvation in the world's most repressive regime.

Meanwhile, the anti-Iraq rhetoric continues to flair, despite the fact that the UN Security Council resists the idea of a US-incited war against that nation. Even Oprah, the queen of decency, has jumped on the pro-war bandwagon, literally silencing guests with alternative views on the war during a show last week in which Iraq was the topic. One wonders, less than a month before elections, when the nation's politicians (calling all Democrats!) are going to mention, perhaps in passing, that the US economy is in freefall, that a few days of stock market gains are always replaced with a week's worth of downturns, and that last week's quarterly report just emphasized how badly the average American is faring economically. Where is that liberal media when one needs it? TV news has so demphasized the damaged economy while playing up the threat posed by Iraq (which has yet to be stated clearly anywhere) that it might as well be the private Bush press machine instead of a national information base.

NBC has been the worst offender in recent weeks, putting the Iraq debacle front and center even during the grisliest days of the Beltway sniper. Only ABC has placed significant attention on the stock market freefall that has been, on the Bush watch, the worst in the nation's history, rivaling even the Depression in terms of actual percentages. And don't depend on PBS for the straight story. Though the *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* has somewhat more gravitas and depth than the networks and CNN, it's still been a whispery voice in an already perilously weak news chorus.

Grate expectations

We remain absolutely appalled at ABC's decision to dump their cancer-stricken anchors, Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts of the venerable *This Week*, in favor of the youthful (and healthful) George Stephanopolous, a member of the *This Week* team for sev-

eral years, since he left the Clinton Administration for greener pastures. This time, one can't wholly blame Stephanopolous, who turned Quisling in the Clinton Administration fairly early on; the network is at fault.

Stephanopolous has always been a great also-ran; he plays well in the orchestra, but first-violin he is not. Roberts had 30-odd years of reporting (not to mention her familial history in politics — her father was the late Sen. Hale Boggs [D-La.], and when his plane went down during a trip to Alaska, her mother Lindy took over the Senate seat; her sister Barbara was also in politics in New Jersey before her death from cancer). Donaldson had been on the White House press beat for years before joining *This Week*. Though the two (especially Donaldson) often let their partisan (conservative) politics show, they were political heavyweights. Stephanopolous simply doesn't

win?" The other ads in the series are equally sexist. Boo, hiss.

Well, we said it first: *Will & Grace* were simply not destined for parenthood. That story idea was, pardon the political incorrectness, simply tooooo lesbian. Thank the powers-that-be that the show's writers have finally found their marbles and are realizing the same thing. Last week's episode was far funnier than the previous shows, and tonight's portends to be equally good.

If the *W&G* people can figure out they were painting themselves into a corner, why can't the writers at *All My Children*? For nearly two years Bianca has been an out lesbian, defying her mother and everyone else, insisting on her queer identity. But she has had a series of failed relationships with straight and bi-curious girls. Now she's falling for Maggie, twin sister of her last lover, Frankie, who was murdered about a nanosecond after she realized her love for Bianca. Can't they give Bianca a break and give her someone to love for more than a blink? The audience has had more than enough time to



Lavender Tube

We understand why Sen. John McCain might turn up on 'Meet the Press' and the 'Today' show, but 'Regis and Kelly Live?' Touting his book, or testing the waters?

have the mileage they had, and his cross between overeager suck-up and political Puck can be a grating mix of obsequiousness and just plain irritant.

Speaking of irritants, Sen. John McCain (R-Az.), that grain of sand in the Republican oyster, has been making the talk-show rounds almost daily. Last week we saw him on five different TV shows, not including his stint as host for NBC's *Saturday Night Live* (though nothing, not even McCain, seems able to save the terrible season they are having, just three weeks in). We understand why he might turn up on *Meet the Press* and the *Today* show, but *Regis and Kelly Live*? Could the erstwhile maverick be testing the waters for another Presidential bid? Or just innocently touting his most recent book? Stay tuned.

The quest for 15 minutes of fame fostered by the spate of reality TV shows on the tube in recent seasons seems to have impacted the hunt for the Beltway sniper. More than one alleged eyewitness to the murder of victim Linda Franklin outside a Home Depot simply made up the data they gave police. One wonders how anyone could imagine a few minutes on-camera is more important than catching a murderer, but that desperate desire for a taste of fame (or in this case, infamy) seems to cloud judgment in many. Just a reminder: giving false information to the police is a crime, whether you saw it on *Fear Factor* or not.

Assault & battery

We are also appalled by the blatant sexism of the new Rayovac battery ads. One opens on a particularly vapid blonde beauty-pageant contestant noting, "...and that's why I want world peace." She is then queried as to which battery is better, Rayovac or Duracell. When she answers Duracell, she is zapped by lightning. Burnt to a crisp, she then asks, "Did I

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Mart Crowley

◀ Arts cover

about reviews, "except they don't hurt so much anymore."

This conversation took place in August, with Crowley sitting in an empty theater at New Conservatory, where auditions for the new play were happening before and after an interview. He was already contemplating rewrites during the break.

"We just saw an actor do a scene," Crowley said, "and I thought, 'Oh, my God, he's got so many fucking words in his mouth.' The characters have got to say 'yes' and 'no' once in a while."

Five of these characters were first seen in *The Boys in the Band* in 1968. The setting is still Michael's apartment, where the confessional gay birthday party of the first play unfolded. The occasion is now a post-wake gathering that includes five characters of a younger generation.

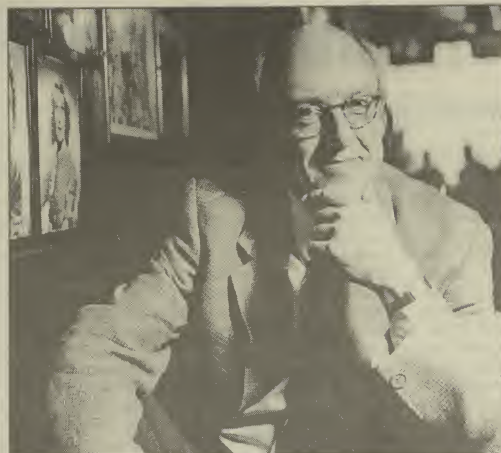
"It had to be the old guys versus the new generation," Crowley said of the play's dynamic. "I wanted the exchange of ideas, and we also had to get some new blood in there. Nobody wants to see a play with a bunch of grumpy old men on stage."

Grumpy, maybe, but seasoned by life. "I met a lot of young people half my age and listened to so fucking many people share that I thought I was going to lose my mind," Crowley said of his time in recovery. "You sit there and hear people who have been sober for two days, and they think they know it all, and you just want to puke."

Despite his testy remonstrations, Crowley is an affable gentleman, easy to laugh, and whose words seem harsher in print than in his friendly delivery. His cynicism, reflected in the autobiographical Michael character in both *Boys* plays, has lost some of its sharper edges, and now sometimes emerges with a smile and a shrug. "Is there life after San Francisco for this play? Who knows? I'm old enough to — it's not exactly *not* care — but if it does end here, I will feel rewarded that it was done."

Bad-news bearer

The genesis for *The Men from the Boys* came in 1988, when one of Crowley's closest friends, who had been the specific inspiration for a character in *Boys in the Band*,



Playwright Mart Crowley is glad to be back with *The Men from the Boys*.

revealed to Crowley that he had AIDS. "He had been sick for six to eight months without telling me, and we were so close," Crowley said. "Well, I didn't go upstairs and write down the scene right after he left, but it was etched in my mind."

He soon did write out a scene based on his friend's bad-news visit, and then forgot about it for several years. "When I came back to it, I didn't know where it would go in the play. I thought it was probably the end of the play, but it turns out it isn't. I've never written a play out of sequence before."

When *The Boys in the Band* opened in New York in 1968, a disease like AIDS could not be imagined. In fact, Stonewall was still a year off, and populating a play with functioning gay characters was revolutionary as well as risky for a rising young writer.

"I think that when people write dynamic and inflammatory works, they have some inkling of what they're doing," Crowley said. "I speak from experience. I mean, I was no idiot about writing *Boys in the Band*."

What Crowley couldn't have anticipated was the almost-immediate rush of gay liberation, which produced an opinion that the *Boys in the Band* characters were self-hating relics to be left behind. "It was mostly Vito Russo and *The Celluloid Closet*," Crowley said of how a *Boys* backlash got stirred up. "But even Vito said in print

that the Frank-Larry relationship was the first gay relationship that had a happy ending."

Further favorable revisionism set in when *Boys in the Band* had a high-profile revival in New York in 1996, when it was lauded for its pioneering stance, its wit and energy, and the diverse representation of gay characters going about their lives with varying degrees of success.

"Of course, it was a blessing and curse," Crowley said of *Boys in the Band*. "But what if I had never done it at all? I wouldn't have had the life I've had. It brought me fame and a lot of money, but it also made me drink myself into oblivion. But who knows if I wouldn't have done that anyway? My father did, and he didn't write *The Boys in the Band*."

In answering a domestic question, Crowley said he has generally not been susceptible to coupling.

"That's actually referred to in this play. Michael's last speech goes something like, it's sad to have never shared your life with anyone. It's essential for some people, but for me it's always been impossible. It's just been better to travel hopefully than to ever arrive." ▼

The Men from the Boys will run through Dec. 8 at New Conservatory Theatre Center. Tickets are \$18-\$38. Call 861-8972.

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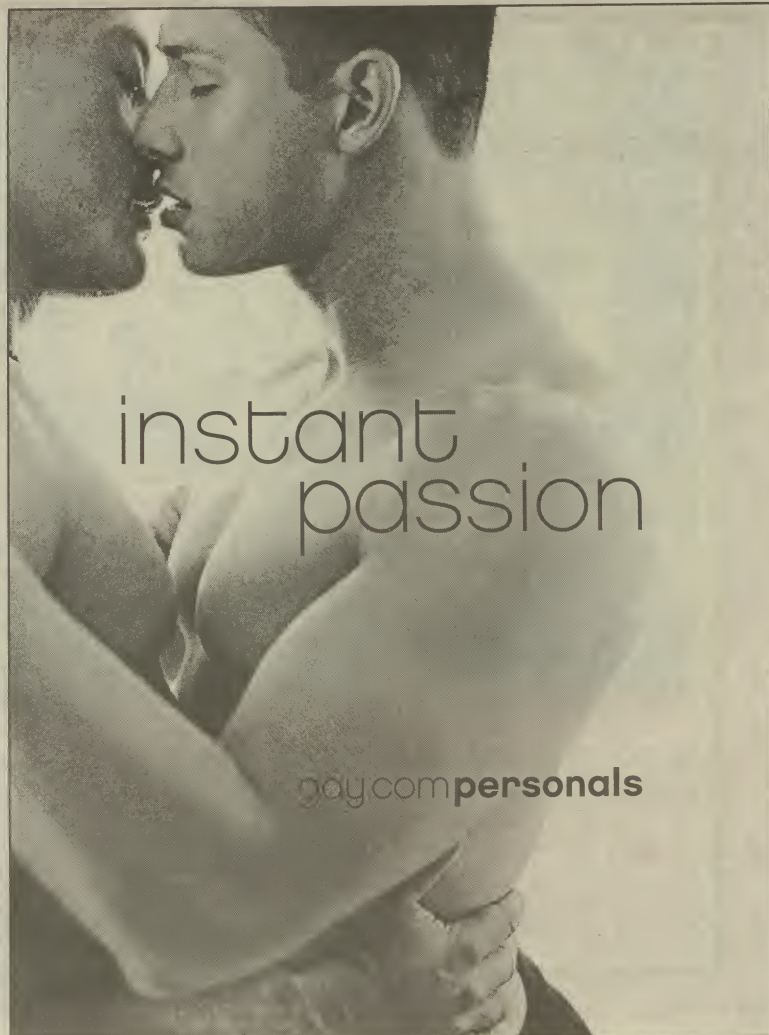
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June Reinisch, Director Emeritus of the Kinsey Institute, at MoSex.

Museum of Sex

◀ Arts cover

battle with the forces of prudery have been a key part of that history.

Opening a sex museum in post-Giuliani New York was no easy task. The museum's Fifth Avenue building is 500 feet from any church or school, its facade consists of plain white windows with the name in small letters, and visitors must be at least 18 years old. Opposition has come from the usual quarters; even before seeing the exhibition, Catholic League president William Donohoe denounced the museum as "moral pollution."

Executive Curator Grady Turner, formerly of the New York Historical Society, collected materials from many sources, including confiscated materials archived by the New York Police Department. Turner worked with a board of 14 historian advisors including gay studies pioneer Professor Martin Duberman, Lesbian Herstory Archives co-founder Joan Nestle, and Kinsey Institute Director Emeritus Dr. June Reinisch, and also drew on the expertise of porn stars, prostitutes, and underground writers and photographers. MoSex aims to expose the sex lives of or-



MoSex Executive Director Daniel Gluck: Is it the equivalent of MoMA?

inary men and women throughout the ages, often documented by old photographs and letters from personal collections. "It's not just a lot of pretty white women having sex," said Turner.

Deep culture

New York City has indeed had a major impact on the world of sex, and almost every aspect of sexual culture is represented in the exhibit, including: early abortion tools, Irving Klaw's Bettie Page pinup

photos, "physical culture" muscle magazines, lesbian pulp fiction, accounts of the early African-American butch/femme scene in Harlem, articles about transgender pioneer Christine Jorgenson, photographs from public sex venues such as Plato's Retreat and the Hellfire Club, clips from *Deep Throat*, the first porn flick to garner mainstream popularity, and videos of ACT UP protests.

In 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the first birth-control clinic in Brooklyn. The first condoms were marketed by a New York sausage-vendor who saw a new use for sausage casings, and founded the Ramses company. And, the exhibit says, the first American heterosexual SM scene emerged in the city in the 1930s, as fetishists from Germany and France fled to the US to escape the Nazis.

New Yorkers are often accused of thinking their city is the center of the universe, and this tendency is sometimes apparent in the exhibit. As usual, the 1965 police raid of the Council on Religion and Homosexuality's New Year's Eve ball in San Francisco is glossed over in favor of the Stonewall Riots as the spark that started the gay liberation movement. And the contention that the gay community embraced the SM scene as a result of the 1954 Marlon Brando film *The Wild One* is certainly questionable; more likely, the film was influenced by the nascent California gay biker subculture.

The inaugural exhibit is accompanied by a fascinating book entitled *NYC SEX*. More than a catalog, the book provides an overview of the history of sex in the city by Turner, followed by a series of interviews. Duberman and Nestle discuss queer life in the years before and during the gay liberation movement; "Happy Hooker" Xaviera Hollander and Tracy Quan talk about the changing face of prostitution; feminist performance artist Karen Finley, author Luc Sante, KISS rocker Gene Simmons, and cartoonist Art Spiegelman look at the city's underground subcultures; and author Legs McNeil and ex-porn stars Vanessa del Rio and Annie Sprinkle discuss the porn industry in New York City before it moved to the West Coast in the late 1980s.

MoSex is a worthy addition to the New York City visitor's itinerary. While the primary goal is not titillation, says Turner, "It's inevitable that anyone coming to the show will find something that sexually excites them." Advises Reinisch, "It's a great place to bring a date!" ▼

The Museum of Sex is located at 233 Fifth Ave., at 27th St. How New York City Transformed Sex in America runs through July 3, 2003. Tickets are \$17. Info: www.museumofsex.com.

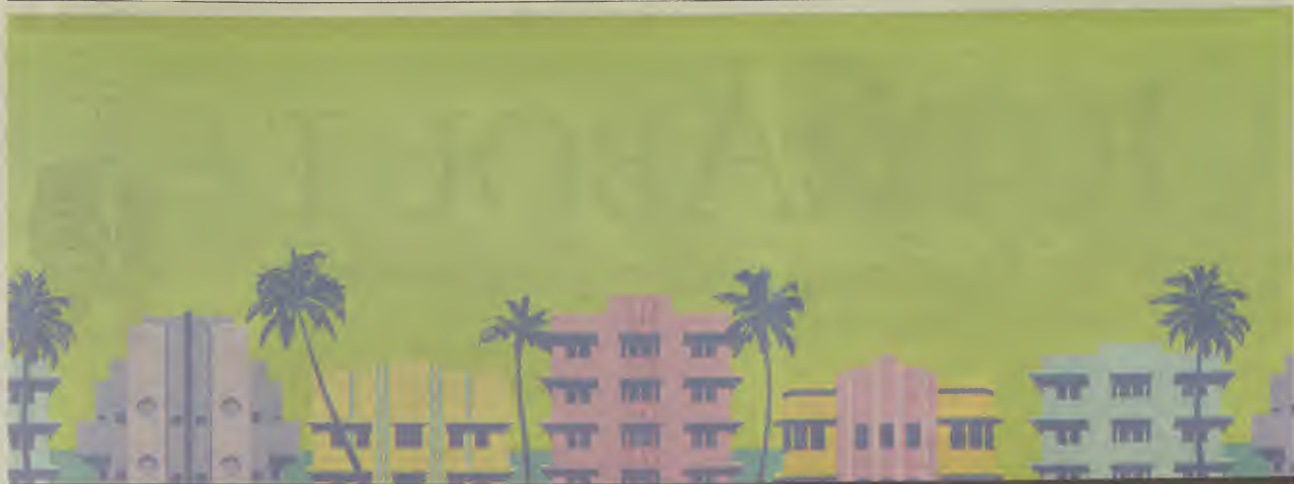
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OUT&ABOUT

Calendare by Jim Provenzano



Gawkers and garish gals at a Castro Halloween.

Ghost town

Playing in the graveyard of a small Ohio town wasn't so much scary as environmentally appropriate. With ornate mausoleums ripe for "Dark Shadows" reenactments, Halloween was more often a pleasant celebration of the dead, an orange signpost of the season's passing; leaf piles, entire fields of pumpkins to chose from.

One of our older playmate/babysitters, Carl, a handsome high school kid from next door, would be our Frankenstein or werewolf, jumping out from behind tombstones under the occasional full moon bright enough to satisfy James Whale. We enjoyed giggling at mortality.

But then Carl got shipped off to Vietnam, and the scary stuff continued each day in the green blurry film footage on the news.

Death took on a different aspect then. We didn't play so much in the cemetery, but we do visit now and then.

The origins of All Hallow's Eve are, of course, Pagan, and celebrate the harvest. Subsequent Catholic appropriated versions made the next day, November 1, All Saint's Day. The weeks before it now have a special aisle at Wal-Mart's.

Despite the alleged Christianization of America, it seems ironic that this holiday's products - the celebration of Samhain, witches and spirits - outsell most others.

Our local version has suffered enormous growth pains, with the teeming hordes of suburbanites, some of them looking for trouble and upstaging what was once a fun Castro holiday. Once a safe celebration of wacky drag, many GLBT folk have to consider the annual option; dive in or get the hell out of town.

Castro merchants say they don't want an official area, and yet thousands throng to the tiny gay district, expecting to see freaks. Performers want to put on a show to offer some distraction from what the late hours bring; drunken people a lot scarier than any fictional monster.

Do you remember when Halloween was innocent?

What relationship our collective memory has to this holiday melds together in styrofoam headstones and store-bought costumes, bags of candy, the creepy house at the end of the road, rumors of razors in apples, and this year, snipers and impending war.

Before you sculpt your wig or barricade your windows on the 31st, stop by the Embarcadero's Justin Herman Plaza at 11am on Saturday, Oct. 26, and join the growing ranks of citizens around the world determined to resist the flippant actions of probably the scariest (p)residential administration ever.

Halloween isn't just an annoying invasion of double-parking, barfing, pissing creeps, even though in some zip codes it seems that way.

War isn't going to distract us from a sinking economy, fraudulent elections, and suspicious "security" measures. With elections always around the corner after the candy buzz wears off, it helps to have a little foresight beyond the political masquerade.

The best way to remember the dead on All Hallow's Eve is to prevent more from joining their ranks before their time.

This year, celebrate the harvest of life, of accomplishments, of love. Celebrate the fun of dressing up, and demand a safe space to do it. Look the monsters in the face, and say, "Boo." ▼



She'll eat you for breakfast: Peaches at Electroclash 2002. See Sunday.

Fri 25

ATA Gallery

"Pantheistic Panorama" includes videos and discussions about modern pagans, including witch Marian Wallace talking and showing her video scrapbook of interviews, plus technopaganism and activism through witchcraft. \$5. 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Cowell Theater

California Contemporary Dancers perform "From the Sublime to the Ridiculous," an evening of new and repertory works. "American Songs" includes traditional waltzes, and the new "Chicks," is choreographed by new co-artistic director Sheetal Gandhi, a former member of Cirque du Soleil. Benefit dinner and party tonight is \$40, perf. only \$20. \$15 kids under 12. Under 5 free. Thru Sun. Fort Mason Center. 345-7575. www.ccdancers.org.

Fifes, Russian River

"Russian River Massacre," a sleep-away camp weekend of drag and horror fun, starts off tonight with a Midnight Mass outdoor screening of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, hosted by the very scary Peaches Christ. Hotel rooms, discount tickets and round-trip bus tickets available. \$8-13 movie. \$35 bus tickets, available at the Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary and Cold Steel, 2377 Market St. at Castro. See Saturday for more events. www.peacheschrist.com.

Fort Mason

Mollen Zanger's "Fitting Company" and Andrea Moon's "Heat Lightning" are part of the continuing series of staged readings in Dramarama 2002. Different plays each Friday thru Nov. 8 \$5-\$10. 7:45pm. Blue Bear School of Music, Bldg. D, 2nd fl. 626-4603. www.playwrightscenef.org.

Jezebel's Joint

The Fencesitters Costume Ball, a bi dance party. The largest bi dance party anywhere will feature DJs Amber (Sister SF/CODE) and Pimprock (Bondage A Go Go/Fiendish) and hundreds of bi folk from around the Bay. Costumes and Masks encouraged. Double your dating opportunities. Similar party on Oct. 31. Ages 21 up, \$10, with a Threesome Special: \$2 off for each. 9pm-3am. 510 Larkin at Turk. 820.3907

Jon Sims Center

Adeo performance ensemble explores queer men of color issues, and their misrepresentation or absence in an "economy centered on whiteness," with dancer Oscar Trujillo, performer Emael, visual artist Allyn Nobles and activist Derrick Miller-Handley. \$5-10. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. at 11th. 554-0402. www.jonsimsctr.org

Luther Burbank Center

"It's a Scream!" when lesbian and gay comics Suzanne Westenhoefer and André Kelley tell jokes and host a Halloween costume contest, which benefits "We the People." ASL-interpreted. \$10. HWY 101 North to River Road, Santa Rosa. (707) 546-3600. www.lbc.net

New College Theater

Erika Shuch Performance Project performs two works exploring issues of war, refugees, faith and spirituality in "vis-a-vis" and "under god." \$12-15 sliding. 8pm. Also Sat 8pm, Sun 2pm and Nov 1 & 3. 777 Valencia St. 437-3487. www.epiarts.org.

ODC Theater

Kunst-Stoff continues its boldly physical multimedia dance work with "numerous axidents per(form)ed" and "w," featuring guest artist Kevin Cregan, formerly of the Dutch National Ballet. \$16. 8pm. Thru Oct. 26. 3153 17th St. at Shotwell. 863-9834. www.odcdance.org.

Red Vic

"Cookers" follows a pair of thieving crystal meth addicts who hole up in an abandoned house, where they witness eerie tweak-induced hallucinations (or ghosts). \$4.50 - \$6.50. 7:15, 9:15 also 2pm & 4pm Sat/Sun. Thru Oct. 23. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994. www.redvicmoviehouse.com

SF State

"The Laramie Project," Moises Kaufman and Tectonic Theater's play about the Matthew Shepard murder,

is performed by SF State students and community members. Amy Mueller directs. Proceeds benefit campus and community violence prevention programs. \$8-15. 7pm. Also Saturday at 1pm & 7pm. Jack Adams Hall, Cesar Chavez Student Center at SFSU (19th Ave at Holloway). 338-1112.

La Val's Subterranean, Berkeley

Impact Theatre presents "Working for the Mouse," written and performed by Trevor Allen, directed by Kent Nicholson. A one-man tour-de-force about Trevor's misadventures as a character/cast member in the "Happiest Place on Earth." Under layers of fur and disillusionment, Trevor yearns to shed his Pluto costume for the ultimate role: Peter Pan. \$12 (\$7 seniors/students). 8pm Fri. & Sat.; 7pm Sun. Thru Nov. 16. 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. Tix/info: 510-464-4468; www.impacttheatre.com

Yerba Buena Center

"Bay Area Now 3" showcases the diverse visual works of 30 local artists, ranging from Jona Frank's video stills of military high school students, Kota Ezawa's refracted imagery from the O.J. Simpson trial, Shaun O'Dell's revisioning of Americana icons, and other formats exploring wood, paper, collage, video, and Internet effluvia. A fascinatingly diverse array. Opening night party screening includes short videos about skaters, trolls, outer space, America's Most Wanted, and divine possession. \$10-12. 8-11pm. Exhibit runs thru Jan 12. 701 Mission St. 978-2700. www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Yerba Buena Center

Sweden's Cullberg Ballet makes its San Francisco debut with crossdressing aplomb in a gender-switching version of "Swan Lake," the classic ballet set to the famous Tchaikovsky score. Gala opening tonight (Call 398-6449). Other nights \$35-49. 8pm. Thru Oct. 26. 700 Howard St at 3rd. 392-4400. www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

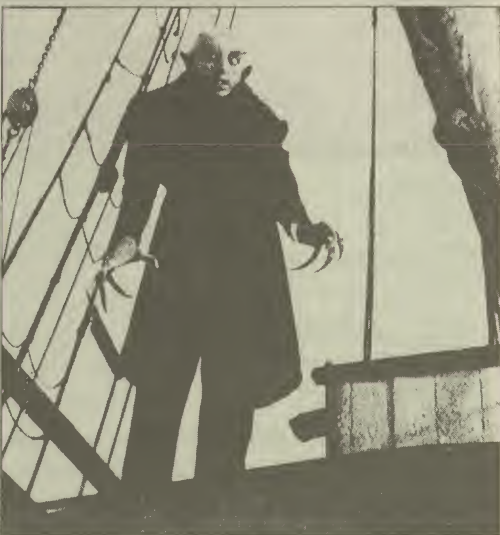
Sat 26

Fifes/FAB, Russian River

"Russian River Massacre," a sleep-away camp weekend of drag and horror fun, continues with Puta's Poolside Pumpkin Slaughter, Free, 2-4pm at Fifes Resort. At 8:30pm, Vinsantos leads a costumed pub crawl through Guerneville's taverns. \$500 in costume contest prizes. At 11pm, the terror continues at Club FAB, with live shows and films by the twisted crew, including Metal Patricia, Glamamore, Suppositori Spelling and Rusty Hips. Sunday includes a beer bust at the Eagle. Hosted by the very scary Peaches Christ. \$35 bus tickets, available at the Bridge Theatre, 3010 Geary and Cold Steel, 2377 Market St. at Castro. www.peacheschrist.com.

Goat Hall

"Candide," Leonard Bernstein's comic opera in two acts, gets a stylish staging, directed by Harriet March Page. \$15-20. Thu.-Sat. at 8pm. Sundays at 7pm. thru Nov. 3. 400 Mission St. 289-6877. www.goathall.org



Scary Monsters: Nosferatu docks at the Red Vic. See Tuesday.



Super Creeps: "Russian River Massacre" drags the river for bodies. See Friday.

GLBT Center

Get moving at the Queer Jitterbugs' Halloween Costume Dance Party, with live band the Dixieland Dykes. All ages. 6:30; basic swing lesson, 7:30; extra lesson, 10:30 band performs until midnight. \$10-15 sliding scale. 1800 Market St. 305-8242. www.queerjitterbugs.com

Hayward City Hall Rotunda

Escape the San Franciscan rabble at the MasQUEERade Ball, a costume party with food, coffee bar, dancing, costume contest and raffles to benefit the non-profit Lighthouse Community Center. \$25-30. 7:30-11pm. 777 B. St. (next to the Hayward BART station). (510) 881-8167.

Magic Theatre

"Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs," Michelle Carter's serio-comic fact/fictional drama with songs, explores the life of the Unabomber, and the tragically topical subject of terrorism. Thru Nov. 10. 10:30-7. 441-8822. www.magictheatre.org

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

Enjoy the great outdoors with the SF Hiking Club on a 12-mile trek. Meet at 8:30am under the Safeway sign at Market & Church sts. 487-6410. www.sfhiking.com

Sun 27**550 Barneveld**

"Sundance Saloon," Country-western dance lessons from 6-7:30pm, followed by open country-western dancing until 11pm. \$5. 21+ w/d. Between Oakdale & Industrial in Bayshore Blvd. corridor. Info: sundancesaloon.org

The Fillmore

Electroclash 2002, featuring headliner Peaches. This ferocious Toronto-based performer is the throbbing union of one machine and one woman's libido: a sweat-beaded confection of primal electro sound and DIY punk attitude. Sexed-up and ready to throw down, her debut 'The Teaches of Peaches' is a hipster dyke favorite. Also on the bill: Chicks on Speed, W.I.T. (Whatever it Takes), Tracy & The Plastics, and Larry Tee. \$20. 8pm. 1805 Geary Blvd. 346-6000. www.thefillmore.com

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church

"Conversations with Authors" hosted by Blanche Richardson, includes gay writer E. Lynn Harris ("Abide with Me," "Just As I Am") as well as Parry Brown, Beverly Jenkins, and April Sinclair ("Coffee Will Make You Black"). Presented by the Xi Gamma Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Proceeds benefit their scholarship fund. \$35. 3-6pm. 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland. (510) 873-7727.

Marines Memorial Theater

"Stomp," the trash-can clanging, joyfully cacophonous percussive performance show, continues thru Jan. 5. \$25-49. Tue.-Fri at 8pm, Sat. at 5pm

& 9pm, Sun. at 3pm & 7pm. 609 Sutter St. (877) 771-6900. www.stomp-online.com

Mon 28**Marines Memorial Theatre**

"One Night Only Cabaret" features company members from the national touring companies of Disney's "Beauty & the Beast," "Stomp," and "Some Like It Hot," including Tony Curtis. The song and dance spectacular benefits Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, New Leaf and the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation. Higher-priced tickets include a cocktail/dessert cast party at Hotel Cosmo. \$35, \$50, \$75 & \$100. 609 Sutter St. 273-1620. www.helpison-the-way.org

SF LGBT Community Center

"QComedy Showcase," Monday Night Gay Comedy. \$8-\$15 sliding. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org; www.QComedy.com

Theatre Rhinoceros

The hilarious P.A. Cooley and Charity Ball host "Too Scary for Words!" a benefit Halloween show for Theatre Rhino. Music, comedy, camp, no-host bar, costume contest and all the candy you can eat. With Acid Housewife, Karen Ripley, Anita Cocktail, Sara Moore, Drew Todd and many more. \$25. 8pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079. www.therhino.org

Tue 29**GLBT Historical Society**

"Evolving Bodies" a visual arts and archival exhibit, explores the shifting expression of physical desires in images and words. Gallery Space, Suite 400, 973 Market St. 1-5pm Tues-Sat, thru Nov. 15. 777-5455, www.glbthistory.org

LGBT Center

Learn the basics of Transcendental Meditation to reduce stress and find mental clarity. 6:30-7:30pm. Room Q34, 1800 Market St. at Octavia. www.tn.org

Lush Lounge

Veronica Klaus and the Bewitching Three featuring Tammy Hall, offers Thrills, Chills, and Cabaret. Soulful, bluesy, jazzy Cabaret with some of that "Old Black Magic" thrown in from Veronica Klaus, described by the SFWeekly as "Vanessa Williams, Jessica Rabbit and Catwoman all rolled into one." \$7. 9pm-Midnight. 1100 Polk St. at Post. 771-2022.

Red Vic

"Nosferatu," F.W. Murnau's classic 1922 silent vampire movie that inspired generations of Bram Stoker fans, and spawned the genre and several remakes, gets a special treat with live music by Jill Tracy and the Malcontent Orchestra. See the original vampire in all his black and white

gory glory. \$10. 7:30 & 9:30pm. Also Wed (2pm-no music, \$4.50) 7:30 & 9:30pm. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994.

www.redvicmoviehouse.com

The Stud

At Trannysack's 7th annual Halloween show, Portia 666 hosts the scary dragfest. \$7. 10pm-3am. 9th & Harrison. www.heklina.com

University of San Francisco

"Proposition N: Will it Solve the City's Homeless Problem?" a panel discussion, includes SF Supe Gavin Newsom, Pablo Steward of the Haight Ashbury free Clinic, Suzanne Giraud of Home Away From Homelessness, and Karen Gruneisen of the St. Anthony's Foundation. 4pm-5:30pm. 2130 Fulton St. McLaren Center. (415) 422-2697.

Wed 30**SF Arts Commission Gallery**

"Construct 2: The Second Annual Installation Award Show" includes installations by Haein Kang (a strange darkened rope & pulley home environment) and duo Leonardogillesfleur's video/architectural interactive space. Thru Dec. 7. Wed-Sat. 11am-5:30pm. Free. 401 Van Ness Ave. (ground fl. at McAllister). 554-6080. sfac.sfsu.edu/gallery

Thu 31**Books Inc.**

Lambda Literary Award-winning author and Sister Spit luminary Michelle Tea reads from her latest book, "The Chelsea Whistle." Costumes encouraged. Free. 2275 Market St. 864-6777.

Jezebel's Joint

The Fencesitters present the Shrine of Lillith Halloween Party, a bisexual costume ball. Goth, industrial, death rock with DJs Fernando (Shrine/Assimilate), Rick A. Mortis (Asylum/Dark Sparkle) and Rodent (Bondage a Go-Go/Fiendish). \$5, \$3 with Damned/Cramps stub. 9:00pm-2:00am, 21 up. 820.3907 510 Larkin at Turk.

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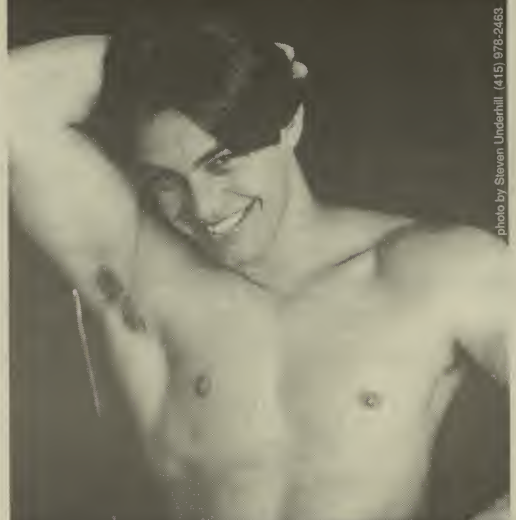


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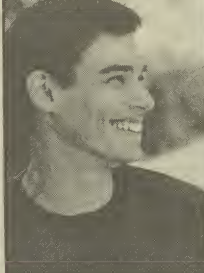
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Sash mania continues

by Mister Marcus

The past weekend saw more titles/sashes bestowed upon people who, in the opinion of their judges, deserved to have a title to represent their communities and advance to the next higher level of competition.

Besides the Mr. NY Eagle 2003 contest and the Mr. New Jersey Leather 2003 contest in nearby Asbury Park, NJ, there was also the Mr. and Ms. Gay San Francisco pageant in San Francisco.

In New York City, the NY Eagle, in conjunction with their three-day-long 32nd anniversary, staged their Mr. NY Eagle Leather 2003 contest on Saturday, with the Wicked Witch of the East (Vern Stewart) officiating the proceedings.

There were three contestants: Joe Justin, Brian Kent and Mike Tully, who faced judges Ryan Goldner, Michael Marino, Jim Mitchell, David Oravez and "Stacey," who put the three through the paces of a bar competition. Michael Weiss and Scott Reikofski were the tally-masters.

There was a hefty crowd on hand, especially later in the evening when people came from the Mr. New Jersey Leather contest when it was over. When all the scores were tallied, Mike Tully emerged as the winner (he goes on to compete at IML 2003 next May), with young Brian Kent the 1st runner-up, and Joe Justin the 2nd runner-up.

In New Jersey, three more men stepped up to the plate (Ross DeRose, Tom Mead and Reed Oxman) to face judges Al Santora, Jill Carter, David Samuel Menkes, Walt Weiss, Joni Perry, Hilary Williams and outgoing Mr. NJ Leather Rob Carabelli.

While details are sketchy, know that Ross DeRose of East Brunswick, NJ captured the title. Tom Mead won the Brotherhood Award, and no other details were forthcoming at my deadline.

Both Mr. New York Eagle and Mr. New Jersey Leather will advance to compete at IML 2003 in Chicago in May 2003. The total number of aspirants for that title



Manley Lennox (left) is Ms. Gay San Francisco 2003, and Lance Brittain (right) is Mr. Gay San Francisco 2003, in a dazzling production last Saturday night, October 19, at the Most Holy Redeemer hall.

is nearing 40 already, and the contest is about 6 1/2 months away! The judges in Chicago should be prepared for a marathon with the 25th edition of IML.

Hurray for Hollywood

In San Francisco, the Mr. and Ms. Gay San Francisco titles are under the auspices of the Imperial Family, and Jason Ladd and "Chablis" chaired this 30th edition of the pageant, for indeed it is a pageant. Contestants were obliged to be interviewed by judges and had to make appearances in sports-



Leather

wear, talent and formalwear. It was a fun experience judging this contest with my Empress Maxine and jock activist Matt Lewis. The crowd was attentive, supportive and exuberant in the Most Holy Redeemer activity hall. The set for the show was electrifying, and the opening production number was well-executed and well-received, with some veteran drag performers giving it their all in the "Hollywood Style" event theme.

Two contestants vied for Ms. Gay: Mark Lindley (also known as "Manley Lennox") and Alex Braboy (also known as "Alexandria"); and for Mr. Gay, Lance Brittain (former Mr. Alameda Co. Leatherman and also SF Leather Daddy's Boy XVII).

Outgoing titleholders Mr. Gay Fernando Robles and Ms. Gay Holly Gramm each performed musical "last walk" numbers, and speeches that were short on time, but insightful in content.

Former Empress Remy Martin was the tally-master, and when the results were in, Lance Brittain was sashed Mr. Gay San Francisco 2003, and Manley Lennox was named Ms. Gay San Francisco 2003. There was a mad dash to the stage by Manley's supporters, who almost knocked over the photographers in their zeal to congratulate the winner.

The entertainment for the contest was nonstop, with veterans Lady Tia (with a bevy of youthful beef), Madame X, Deana Dawn and Gina La Divina giving it their all to standing ovations.

The Imperial Council and all their volunteers are to be congratulated on a stunning production. Like their leather brothers, the court adherents and drag com-

munities manage to stay in the forefront of fundraising and community awareness.

And while the titleholder communities (leather or drag) may be looked upon as foolish by some die-hards, these people put their lives on the line for at least a year and many beyond that, to raise money for worthy charities. Oh sure, some (not all) of them are a pain in the ass sometimes, but the bottom line here is success, and raising money for those less fortunate. It's one of the realities of our community that cannot be ignored.

Uppers and downers

One of the questions frequently asked of contestants in most leather competitions is, "How well did your sponsor treat you?" Often the titleholder reveals a litany of misgivings about their sponsor(s), especially in bar title contests. Complaints like: "I had to have garage sales, cookie sales and car washes to get here to compete."

The aspirants to a title should ensure from the beginning that if they win, all that is promised is delivered. Most organized contest producers provide for airfare, hotel accommodations and a certain amount of spending cash for their titleholders. Others could care less, and if the title-winner wants to compete at the next higher level, it is up to him to pay for the expenses, often by fundraisers.

While there are complaints from both sides of the issue, remember, if you are going to compete for a title, make sure you understand what the rewards are/may be.

Right now, a certain East Coast leather bar is seen in a bad light in its community for not holding up its end of their deal in staging a regional contest. The bar did a landslide business the night of the competition, yet legal action is being threatened against them for not dispensing any of the promised funds. Tsk-tsk. Hopefully, the matter will be settled without too much acrimony.

On the brighter side, the new owners of the Russian River Eagle have signed on as the new sponsors of the Northern California Leather Sir/Boy titles. In New York, after a debacle in Manhattan with last year's sponsor (who is nowhere to be found), Mike

next page ►

SCAM ALERT! • SCAM ALERT! • SCAM ALERT!

Recently, HBK Media, several leather organizations and community groups have been targeted by a person using the advertisements in program books and newspapers as a resource for a widespread scam.

It starts with a collect call - this person will state that people you know have been attacked or robbed, possibly while in the Los Angeles area or elsewhere, and need your help or funds.

A similar hoax has been reported in the last few years particularly in conjunction with Leather Events. HBKMedia deeply regrets that its name has been used to exploit the good will of its associates. This scam is similar to the one from previous years and this person seems to be a professional scam artist. He is able to extract pieces of information from victims he calls in order to weave a larger story and expand his circles. Do NOT give out phone numbers, places of work or any information about the people he is asking about.

Please be assured that the staff at HBKMedia are in good health and safe, and have been equal victims in this scam. As such, we have been in touch with the LAPD, the SFPD and the security folks at Western Union to try to get the matter investigated and resolved.

Do NOT send any money to this person. Do try to find out as much information about him, if you can. For example, offer to bring the money to him in person. Ask for a number of where he can be reached, ask where he is staying or if he needs a place to stay...anything to try and see if the person slips up and gives you some helpful information towards locating him! Then contact the SFPD to let them know you were contacted.

HBKMedia regrets that this person has chosen to target us. We hope we can all work together to bring this scam to a quick close and recover missing funds for those who fell victim to the play. We certainly appreciate your help! If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact HBKMedia at 415-861-2141. Thank you.

Respectfully,
H. Brock Kolivas
CEO, HBKMedia

DisenGaged

by John F. Karr

What comes to mind when you think of landmarks of masculinity on film? Buster Crabbe's Flash Gordon writhing under the torture of merciless Emperor Ming, David Nelson bulging in white tights while swinging (both ways!) on a trapeze, and Brad Pitt's boybuns rocketing him to fame after their brief appearance atop Thelma (or was it Louise — after those globes, who could remember what lies beneath?)

But surely none of these

rocked gay-dom like the world of men created by Sam and Joe Gage. Their trilogy of road movies (1976-79) presented a new iconography of masculinity to porn, a mythos of truckers and working men who were, to use Jack Fritscher's word, homo-masculine. Presenting the then-contemporary gay man in full uniform — mustache, Levis and flannel shirt — the Gage Brothers' movies paved a yellow brick road that led to an embodiment of masculinity we post-Stonewallers saw as ourselves. A second trilogy (1980-82) built upon Wakefield Poole's 1972 *Bijou* and codified the style of "reality" orgy that is still prevalent and much-copied. The first in this series was the entirely plotless *Closed Set*, a classic which is hailed by the *Bijou Video Guide* as "slimy and unforgettable ... an invaluable historical and cultural record."

Then, in 1982, the brothers disappeared from the scene. Wisely working under the *nom de porn* Mac Larsen, Joe began in the same

year to chisel away at his reputation by delivering some cheaply made and aesthetically cold films to P.M. Productions. Some of these, but not including the now-forgotten *Closed Set 2*, have been reissued on DVD. A year or so later, Mac joined Joe in porn limbo.

And now Joe's back, coasting on what's left of his reputation. On the heels of his re-emergence last year with the sexually enervated and not exactly gay-validating *Tulsa County Line*, Gage has been signed to producer/director Tony Alizzi's fiefdom, MSR

Karnal Knowledge

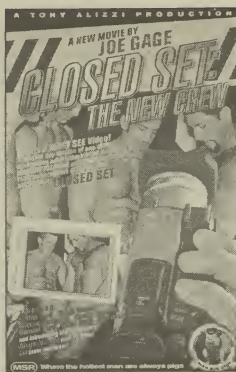
Video, where his first effort marks him as not even a pretender to the throne. The movie is *Closed Set: The New Crew*. And it's nothing like the old one.

What typified CS1 was its immediate truth: it artlessly looked as if guys just like us were getting together in an empty warehouse to have seriously butch sex. It wasn't fantasy. It was real, and it was sexy.

CS3 tips its hand immediately. These porn stars (the kind who imagine they're having a career, and whose agents negotiate contracts and provide "introductions" to "clients") are introduced in the opening credits as characters: The producer, the cameraman, the carpenter, best boy, boom operator and gaffer. Characters. They're play-acting, and it distances both them and us. CS3 is false from the moment you press, "Play."

Alien nation

The direction is self-conscious and ineptly arty. We hear instruc-



tions being given to the cast, blowing any thought that the action is spontaneous. Planned distractions and obstructions of view are constant. We're forced to observe the cameraman more closely than the performers, and there's even quite a spell when we're watching the cameraman's tiny three-inch monitor. Throw in the performers who function at a remove from being themselves, and you've got a full-blast alienation effect: *Brecht porn*.

The single camera bounces restlessly between groups of guys, refusing to alight. The lighting is hard and glaring. Where CS1 had a radio casually playing in the background, CS3 gives us Sharon Kane's cheesy grocery-store treacle, scored for marimba and guitar on a Toys 'R Us synth. That's right: marimba. Many performers are wasted. Damian Ford crawls around on the floor playing cameraman, Blake Harper and Colton Ford's thrilling fuck is cut off midstroke, Carlos Morales looks swell but suddenly disappears, and dynamo Sean Storm — well, where is he?

So, okay, CS3 is typical LA porn, and not the document of our lives the original seemed to be. But there are moments (1 stress: moments) of hot stuff. Newcomer Diego Alvarez, so cut he's nearly shredded, has the last word in six-pack abs, plus a weighty club of uncut cock. Michael Brandon performs prodigious feats of deep-throating, and has such a strong orgasm he nearly implodes. There's impressive cocksucking (although the fucking is strangely curtailed). And you'll be stunned by the match of Ford's mouth to Harper's asshole. If Rimming 'R U, then Go 4 This. ▼

www.msrvideo.com;
(877) 361-3400

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Marino and Miss Connie have signed on as the sponsors for the Northeast Region.

In other developments, Frank Nowicki, Schelli Dittman, Scott Reikofski and Max have taken over the American Brotherhood Weekend titles, so the future looks rosy for all concerned.

In closing for this week, take heart and support the efforts of the new titleholders in your midst. There may be a certain amount of ego in all of them, but they are trying to do a commendable job, and you couldn't ask for anything more from those who put themselves out there. Until next week, keep living, laughing, loving (no problem there for Mike Marino!) and fundraising. Just do it in leather! ▼

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend Oct. 25-26

Mr. Hayes Valley Leather 2003 contest at Marlena's bar on Saturday night, Oct. 26. I'll join Laura Federico, Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, Tony Koester and Alan Selby on the judging panel.

Saturday, Oct. 26

Alameda County Leather Corps celebrates their 9th anniversary at the Turf Club around 1700. No details furnished at my deadline.

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual location, with doors open 2100 to 2300 only. Guest must accompany you. For an invite and location, call (415) 673-0452, or click on www.the15association.org.

Sunday, Oct. 27

The San Franciscans MC hosts the "Harvest Field" beer/soda bust, 1500-1800, \$8, food and costumes encouraged.

SF Leather Dyke Boy "Bronze" hosts "Bite Nite" Halloween party @ Daddy's from 1600-2000, with lots of surprises and a benefit for the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund.

Thursday, Oct. 31

It's Halloween! The San Franciscans MC host a beer/soda bust at the Eagle Tavern 2000-2300 for a \$7 donation, and costumes are encouraged.

Nov. 1 and 2

Ms. San Diego Leather contest, with a Meet & Greet on Friday, contest on Saturday at the Hole. In Hartford, Connecticut, it's the Mr. Connecticut Leather 2003 Contest. For info and details, click on: www.hometown.aol.com/hartfordcoltsmc/.

In Amsterdam, it's the annual "Playgrounds 2002" gathering, a weekend of debauchery, fun and games. For more information on this one: www.leatherpride.nl.

Sunday, Nov. 3

No details furnished (what else is new?), but the Constantines MC is allegedly hosting the beer/soda bust at the Eagle today from 1500-1800, with \$8 donation.

Weekend, Nov. 7-10

Mr. Palm Springs Leather in that city, with three days of fun activities. For details, click on: www.psld.com, or call (760) 778-3971.

In Fort Lauderdale, Mauro Montoyo launches the Mr. Florida Leather 2003 competition with a weekend filled with fun, plus the contest.

In Ottawa-Hull, Alex Wisniowski steps aside for a successor at the "Decade of Decadence" contest and show staged by the Ottawa Knights MC. For more info: www.ottawaknights.com. ▼

— Mister Marcus

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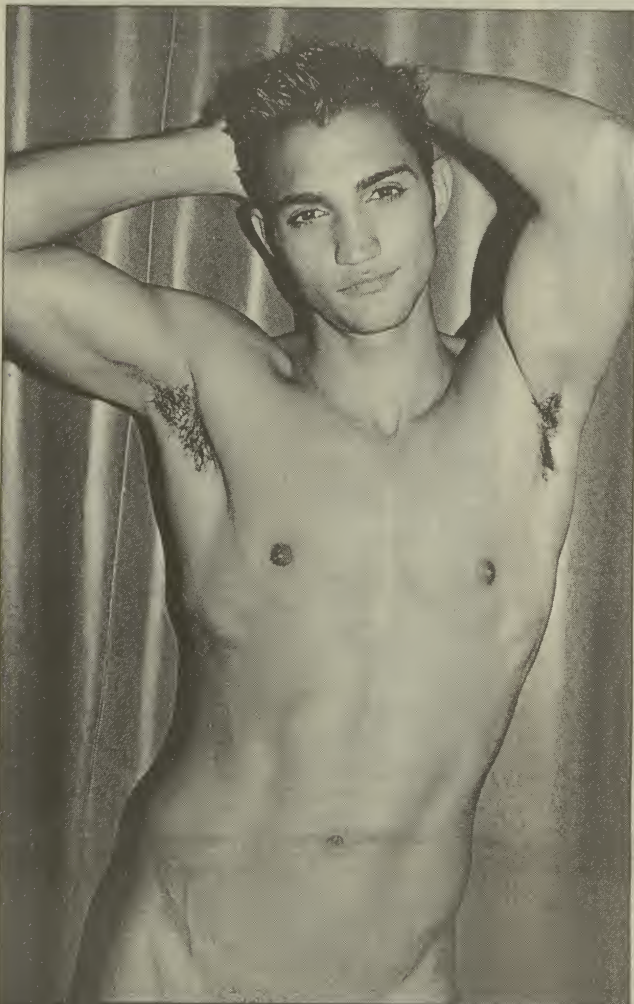
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PARTING GLANCES

9/29 Pilsner @ Pooltable
You-VGL WM blu BB cap blu jkt sat in corner. Me- blu t-shirt military haircut like your chin scruff, you liked my hair. Wished I talked more. Single? Meet? ☎ 72098

"Son's Party" Sept 29 6pm
Fire-(7) "Loved your Horns" My own Devil! Had a very good connection with you the whole evening. Let's hook up once again, I'm your Angel, "Black Star Power!" ☎ 72099

Admired You At Folsom Fair
2pm on sidewalk near 11th. As we passed, I said, "I sure could have fun with those," you smiled put your hand on your nipple and said, "what these?" I said yes. We talked for a moment but it was noisy and I was distracted by the flogging demo. Then we moved on. You: fair skin, big chest and nipples, hearing aids? Me; in tan shirt and cap. Lets have that fun. ☎ 72100

Andrew @ The Eagle Sat Sept 28
You smiled bright saying "hi". I was stupid and shy, Will from Portland with his leather coat. Can we try again? Be in SF for two weeks soon. Call please. ☎ 72108

Pets Unlimited Oct 5 9pm--
You: cute guy with friend picking up her dog. Me: cute guy with friend picking up her dog. Let's get together without the dogs and friends! Woof! ☎ 72109

Richmond Bart 5:20, Sun, Oct 6
You in blue, we spoke, you gave me a cert's "with retsyn". Prelude to a kiss? I'd like to know you. ☎ 72225

Derrick From Oakland
Met you at the gym in S.F. on Sunday, Oct 13. You were there before work. We talked about your tattoo. Would like to meet again. Call me. B. ☎ 72226

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

"Anyone In The North Bay Sober!"
Me: 32 Italian/Caucasian 5'9", 165lbs. drk hair, hazel eyes, work out, handsome. You: attractive, sexy, fun outgoing and gay. No "Closet cases". I'm 4 months sober and fun. ☎ 72101

One Good Man Wanted For Lover
White man 49, 6' 204lbs brown hair blue eyes bottom or top love oral seeking a White man 40-60 for long term relationship. ☎ 72102

This Could Be The One
G.B.M. 51y.o., 5'9", 180lbs well-rounded, masculine yet gentle, patient, understanding. Want to share long-term & fulfilling relationship with warm loving senior man. Let's talk. ☎ 72103

Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO older men for lots of cuddling, kissing & oral pleasure. Poss ltr. Husky, facial hair, non-gym, loner A+. Not into gay scene of lifestyle. ☎ 72110

Beefy Guy Wanted
Professional, HIV-, stocky guy wants to meet sweet beefy guy for dates eroticism & possible ltr. No married nor committed guys, please. ☎ 72111

Hot Daddy, Hard Body, 65
With highbrow tastes, leftist politics and a big cock seeks approx. duplicate of self but any cute clever guy might do. Try it. ☎ 72114



Stop! I'm The One Your Looking For
GLM, 31, 5'7", 195lbs, sexy, cute, football player, looking for masc. btm. Brn/hair/eyes, shaved head w/goatee. Drug/disease free. ISO monogamous ltr w/GM top 30-42. Intellectual, passionate. Fun times is your reward. ☎ 72112

Lean Built Hairy Fun & Maybe Romance
Very together, masculine, easy going man seeking a fit, hairy, 45+, extremely oral man into nips, endless touching, caressing, kissing. I am healthy Poz, oral, fun, interesting, affectionate, passionate. If you like mature, muscular, hairy men, I am 50, 5'11", 185. Maybe dating if chemistry, sex, and interests match up. ☎ 72113

Sexual Healing For Bottom Boy
Patient, affectionate top, any age or race, teach this nervous bottom, too shy to cum, the Joy of Sex. Couples, healers, buddies, friends, all ok. Sweet, young 39 GWM. ☎ 72227

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Naked On Your Knees
Role playing trim WM 43 gives orders to trim masculine guys under 45 who like verbal domination and oral submission. No pain or unsafe sex. ☎ 72105

Hot Blond GWM, 21.
And older friend seek open minded, horny guys interested in small group sex sessions on a bi-monthly basis. All races welcome. Must be 18-30 and fit! ☎ 72229

Something Sweet To Share & Suck
Early 50's bi WLM cut 7"- wife doesn't suck. I need sucking and servicing by gentle tender 20-something daddy-boys- possible cuddling and kissing and reciprocation in the Castro. ☎ 72222

Your Cock Lover
Love to meet and suck your big cock regularly. I am GWM 6' 165lbs. Ages 40-60 yrs. Have it kissed and swallowed deep. Shoot your horny loads. ☎ 72106

"Like Strokin To Bareback Videos!"
Into playing safely but fantasize about barebacking? Into barebacking videos? Me: masculine GWM, 40y/o, 5'11", 165#, salt/pepper, mod hairy, HIV-, seeks similar dude for stroking at my place. ☎ 72228

48 Year Old, Hung Black Stud
Needs good head weekly. Seeking an oral expert, either clean shaven or moustache only. Direct phone # required, Oakland area. Experienced, serious replies only please. ☎ 72230

Slim Smooth Group Cock Wanted 6'11", 200lb W/M
is seeking a group of very smooth, slender guys with big cocks. Let's get together so that you can take turns fucking me!! ☎ 72104

Looking Now For Hot Bottom Fuck Buddy.
Thick 9" will deep plow your ass and make you beg for more. Attractive good 6' build gray hair, beard. Love my cock sucked. Plush SF apt. Phone George. ☎ 72223

Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, muscular/ goatee, versatile dad.
ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", verbal, light S&M, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on East Coast, visiting S.F. Nov. Nude photo required, butt photo get mine. I am HIVpoz/ 18years. ☎ 72221

LESBIAN

"Attention All Units!"
GWF 43 lives in So. Ca. loves the Bay Area, ISO GWF 35+ who works in Law Enforcement or Public Safety for friendship, phone conversation, penpals. Please call soon. ☎ 72231

FETISHES

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Intense partying buddy desired, strictly j/o, talk. Your place-p.m. only, no toys, videos, groups, age, size, race, looks, unimportant. Mutual j/o, d/t, c/b worship bring daddy style. ☎ 72107

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Anyone Out There Into Sheer Socks?
Attractive Latino 35, 5'11", blk hair, brown eyes, uncut, N/S, N/D, size 12 shoe, would like to meet Latins or Whites into same fetish under 40. Non smokers only. ☎ 72232

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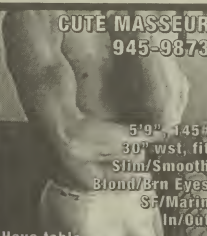
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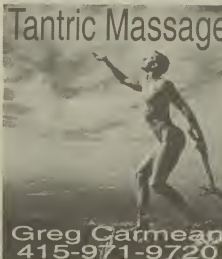
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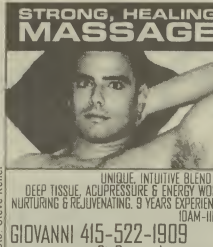
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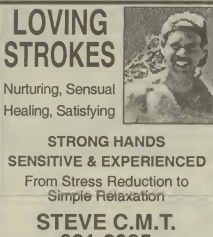
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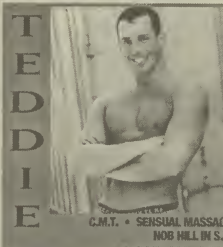
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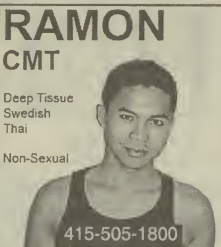
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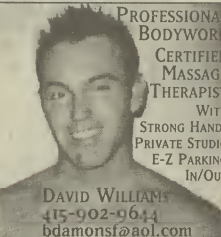


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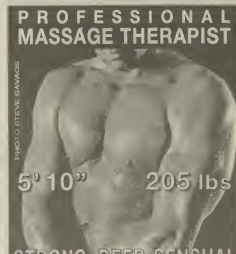
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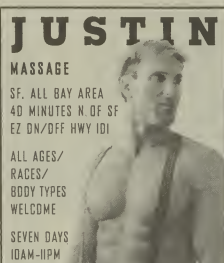
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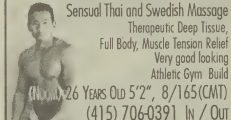
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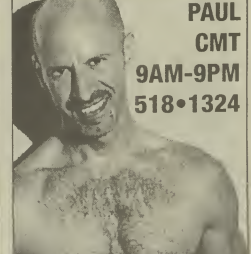
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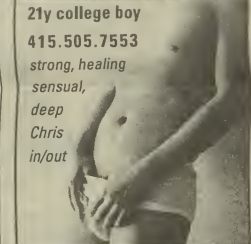
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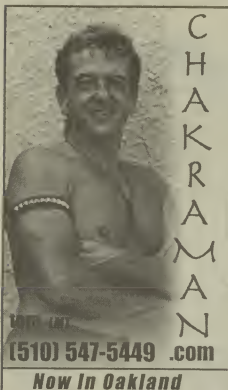
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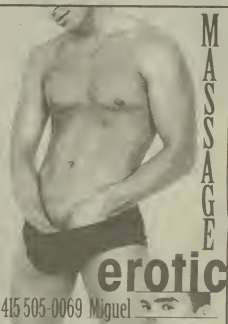
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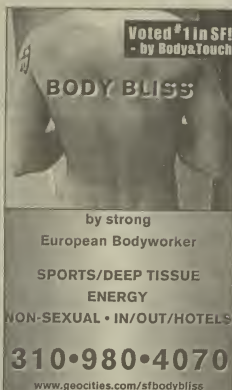
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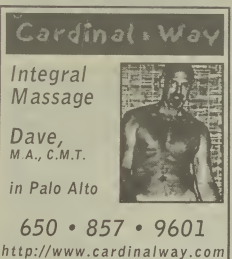
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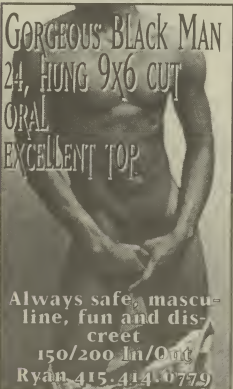
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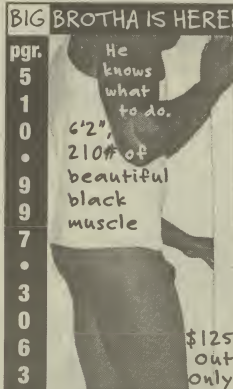
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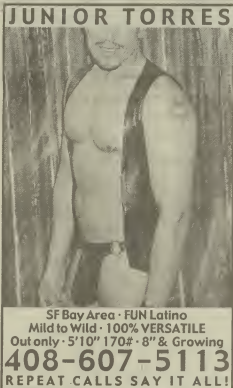
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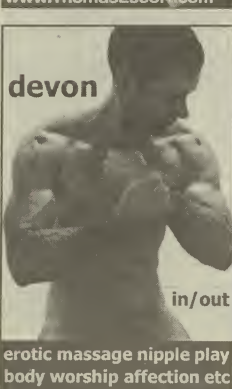


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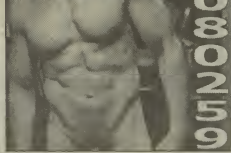
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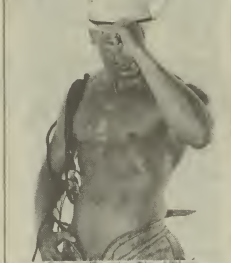
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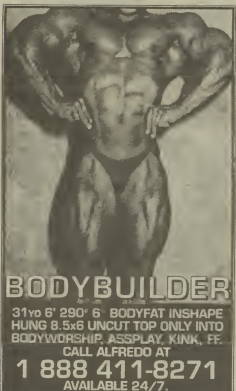
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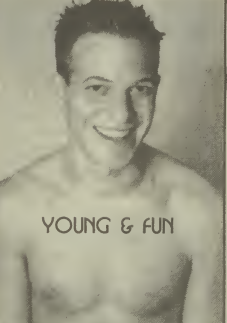


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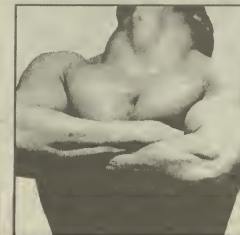
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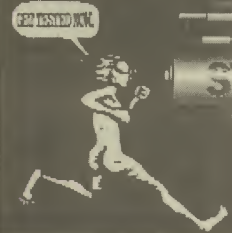
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☐ Money Order
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Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.

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Card Number

Expiration Date

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Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH
PAYMENT TO:

BAY AREA
REPORTER
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

OR FAX TO:
415.861.8144



METZGER

Syphilis is spread by "skin-to-skin" contact, through anal, vaginal AND oral sex. Many people don't notice the symptoms or know they have syphilis. The initial sore is painless. The good news is syphilis is easily cured.



GET TESTED FOR SYPHILIS

www.healthypenis2002.org 415.487.5580

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